Bangko Sentral to review PLDT sale agreement

STORY ON PAGE A2

UN cites Baguio 'Eco-Walk'

SALAMAT SA PAG-ALAGA N'YO SA AKIN!

By Frank Cimatu
PDI N. Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo would have gone "eco-walking" at the Busol watershed here instead of climbing the country's second

UN CITES/A11

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More active US role, extended stay seen

Basilan folk receptive to proposals

By Martin P. Marfil and Carlito Pablo

AN EXTENDED stay of American troops training Filipino soldiers in counter-terrorism and a more active US role in fighting the Abu Sayyaf bandits.

US Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz, who arrived in Manila yesterday, was expected to bring up these two proposals in his meeting with President Macapagal-Arroyo at Malacañang last night.

Top Philippine officials, as well as Basilan villagers, appear receptive to the US proposals.

"The government is open to bringing US troops to the company level from the present battalion level to assist, train and advise Filipino troops in Basilan but not for combat or rescue operations," National Security Adviser Roilo Golez told defense reporters yesterday.

Lamitan town in Basilan on Sunday marked the anniversary of a high-profile attack by Moro bandits by calling for an extended US military presence and the immediate release of three Abu Sayyaf hostages, including two Americans.

After celebrating Mass, Catholic priests in Lamitan passed around a petition urging President Macapagal to extend the stay of American troops involved in the Balikatan counter-terrorism exercises scheduled to end in July.

Three jeep-loads of Abu Sayyaf bandits linked to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network seized the Lamitan

MORE/A20

CHILDREN play with a member of the US Special Forces outside a church in Lamitan, Basilan. Abu Sayyaf bandits raided the town over a year ago.

REUTERS

Climaco letter sought Piatco deal changes

By Carlito Pablo

PRESIDENTIAL Adviser for Strategic Projects Gloria Tan Climaco had sought at least 28 revisions in the controversial contract between the government and Philippine International Air Terminals Co. for the construction of Terminal 3 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

Climaco, who is the subject of an arrest warrant issued by the bicameral Commission on Appointments for failing to testify in four hearings, listed the proposed changes in a letter to Piatco chair Bernd Struck and president Vic Cheng Yong dated March 13, 2002.

The CA wants Climaco, who chaired the presidential committee that reviewed the contract, to testify on her initial findings to partly answer allegations that have delayed the confirmation of Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez.

It also issued a separate warrant of arrest against Alfonso Liongson, a Piatco consultant receiving $200,000 a month and allegedly a dummy of certain government officials.

In her letter, copies of which were obtained by several media organizations, Climaco sought, among other things, the re-negotiation of the $20-terminal fee which Piatco wants to levy on passengers when Naia 3 becomes operational. The amount is almost double the current terminal fee of P550.

Climaco said the $20 fee "shall be adjusted to reflect the true intention at the time the concession agreement was

CLIMACO/A11

Raps unfair, says Naia 3 contractor

By Norman Bordadora

"UNFAIR."

Speculation that presidential adviser Gloria Tan Climaco would expose anomalies in the Naia 3 contract that Philippine International Air Terminals Co. won in 1997 was out of bounds, the firm's spokesperson said yesterday.

Piatco vice president Moises Tolentino Jr. told the INQUIRER that it was unfair to imply that Climaco's testimony would be damaging to Piatco, simply because she had not been able to testify in successive hearings held by the Commission on Appointments.

Climaco, who chaired the presidential committee that reviewed the Piatco contract and is currently in the United States, was ordered arrested for failure to heed the CA summons.

"There is no basis for the alleged anomalies and it is quite unfair to float that story," Tolentino said. He said his company welcomed Climaco's testi-

RAPS/A11

US reward offer a step toward big military offensive

By Amando Doronila

ANALYSIS

THE US Embassy announcement offering a $5-million reward for information leading to the capture of five Abu Sayyaf leaders identified as responsible for acts of terrorism, including the kidnapping of an American couple, is a unilateral initiative that has come under attack from Filipino nationalists.

The initiative is under fire because it was launched without prior consultation with the Philippine government. Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona Jr. said the Department of Foreign Affairs was informed about the offer of reward a day before its announcement on May 29.

The US Embassy offered the reward directly to the ordinary Filipino citizen, going over the head of the Philippine government. The announcement said the reward "will offer ordinary people in the Philippines an opportunity to contribute to the battle against terrorism."

This is directly engaging Filipino citizens in that battle to which the Philippine government has committed its support for the worldwide US-led war on terrorism.

US Ambassador Francis J. Ricciardone said the reward was intended "to encourage citizens" to come forward to provide information that "can help bring the Abu Sayyaf terrorists to justice."

Implicit in the initiative is that the US government is not satisfied with the progress of the joint RP-US Balikatan exercises in Mindanao in rescuing hostages Martin and Gracia Burnham, and in crushing the Abu Sayyaf bandits who are said to have already been ringed by troops in Basilan. Thus, the pressure for results intensifies as the termination of the six-month exercises

US REWARD/A20

Pasay cops came from beerhouse

By Alcuin Papa, Martin P. Marfil and Villamor Visaya Jr.

MEMBERS of the Pasay City police, who figured in a bungled attempt to rescue a 4-year-old boy from a hostage-taker at a bus terminal on Friday, had come from a beerhouse, according to a police officer.

"The vehicle (that took the policemen) was spotted outside a beerhouse on Roxas Boulevard" before responding to the hostage-taking incident, the police officer, who asked not to be named, told the INQUIRER. He identified the beerhouse as East Asia.

A photographer at the scene noted that the policemen appeared to be drunk. "*Parang nakainom,*" he said.

PASAY/A20

Teachers worry over 'millennium curriculum'

By Donna S. Cueto

(First of a series)

SPECIAL REPORT

THERE'S a problem in the implementation of the new Basic Education Curriculum (BEC) in all public schools starting June 17. Teachers are ill prepared for the new curriculum.

Ms Y, a teacher of values education in high school, is worried because she will be seeing her students only once a week instead of every day.

She attended the training seminar of the Department of Education (DepEd) on the BEC, also known as the "millennium curriculum," but came out of it more confused.

Teachers who received the training said they did not understand the integration of values with every learning area and with the various subjects under the restructured curriculum.

"What will happen now? How will my students get the most of the subject if we get to interact with them only once a week?" Ms Y asked.

She has "emotional baggage," too. "How will we teach our students effectively if we ourselves are still confused about this millennium curriculum?" she asked.

"They have not even consulted the teachers. We are the ones affected," she said of DepEd officials.

Ms Y is also being asked to "team teach" along with other teachers in other Makabayan subjects—Social Studies, Technology, Home Economics, Music, Geography, History, Health and Physical Education.

Makabayan is one of the five key learning areas under the restructured curriculum. The others are Filipino, English, Science and Mathematics, known as "basic tool subjects," that

TEACHERS/A20

TUITION FEE INCREASE
CHED

THE MILITANT group Sanlakas raises another issue on the education front—tuition increases in colleges and universities.

JOAN BONDOC

Second FRONT PAGE

PARA WALANG MAIIPIT SA BENTAHAN!

Gov't to review PLDT deal

By Abigail L. Ho

A DEAL seeking to transfer the control of the country's largest telecommunications company will be scrutinized by the government to ensure that no domestic bank is hurt.

While an all-out bidding war is brewing for the control of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and the sale of a stake in property firm Metro Pacific Corp., the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said it would oppose any deal detrimental to domestic banks.

In a telephone interview, Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura yesterday said the government was mainly concerned about the welfare of the banks should a sale push through.

Hong Kong-based conglomerate First Pacific Ltd. has put its 24.4-percent in PLDT up for sale. John Gokongwei Jr. has reportedly offered to buy PLDT along with 50 percent of First Pacific's stake in Bonifacio Land Corp. through its subsidiary, Metro Pacific. ***(See story in Business, Page B1.)***

"If the deal is not to the advantage of the banks, we will oppose it. That's why it is better for (Metro Pacific) to explain to its creditor-banks what will happen after the sale," Buenaventura told the INQUIRER.

He noted that several local banks had a large exposure, around P12 billion, in the ailing property firm.

"The thing that got our attention is that Metro Pacific is undergoing debt restructuring. It should make sure that the exposure of the local banks is protected. As far as the (Bangko Sentral) is concerned, if there's any ongoing transaction on the sale of PLDT and Metro Pacific, the rights of the banks should be protected," Buenaventura said.

He said the local banking system could be affected by the impending transfer of ownership.

Buenaventura also noted that most of the property firm's debts were asset-backed.

"The banking system would have to take a loss if the banks' rights are not protected. Metro Pacific's assets should not be dissipated in the event of a sale," he added.

But an analyst said that the debt restructuring process was not likely to be affected by a transfer of ownership.

"The debt restructuring exercise of Metro Pacific is separate from the deal. I don't know how it will affect the complexion of the restructuring," said Mike Ordinanza, director of the Association of Securities Analysts of the Philippines.

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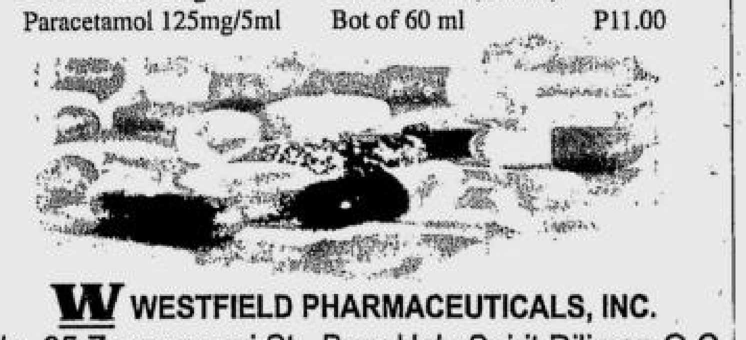

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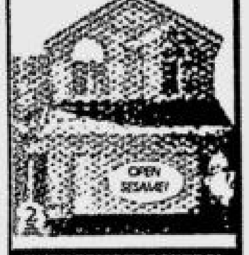
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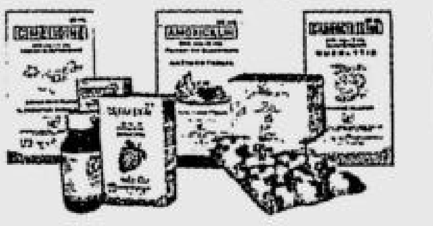
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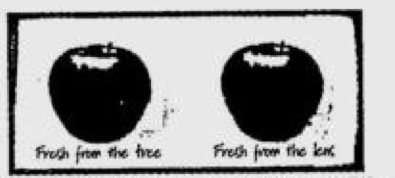

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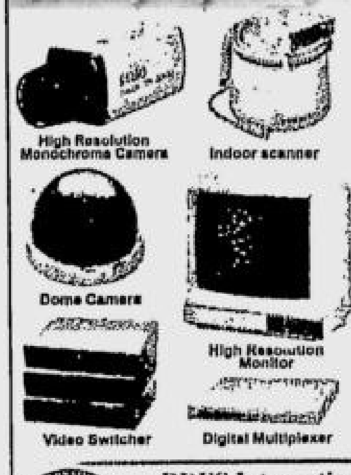

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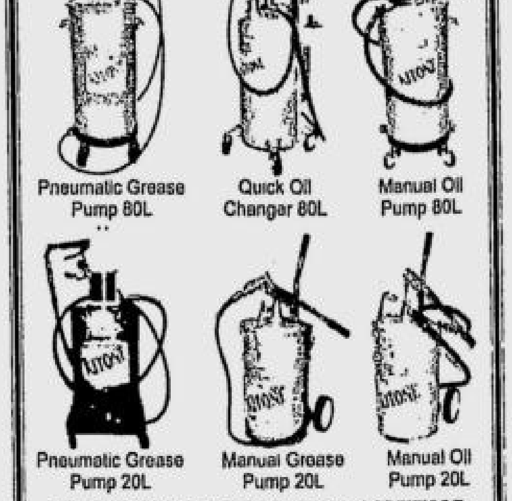

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Gloria named Lakas chair

By Carlito Pablo

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo was formally named commander of a "battle-ready" Lakas-NUCD party Saturday night, but where was its most battle-tested general?

Former President Fidel Ramos, who has been suspected of harboring dreams of a political comeback, was conspicuously absent during the meeting of the Lakas national directorate, held at the Palace.

Presidential adviser on political affairs Jose Ma. Rufino yesterday said Ramos was on a speaking engagement abroad, and that the founding leader of Lakas and current Lakas chair emeritus had notified Ms Macapagal and other party leaders in advance.

"He (Ramos) said when the national directorate meeting was scheduled that he (could not) adjust his trip," Rufino said. "(But) invitations (to party leaders) were already out so several (would have been) inconvenienced if the meeting (had been) moved to another date."

Ramos is believed to be currently in Singapore.

His absence, however, did not appear to have dampened the "very upbeat" mood of the party as it looks forward to the 2004 elections.

"This is because the party leader (Ms Macapagal) is also the standard bearer (in the elections)," Rufino said. "Of course, the entire party, especially us party faithfuls, will march in one step, and speak with one voice and one mind."

Rufino said that Lakas will first deal with the July barangay elections "and after that, the contest in 2004."

"The party is battle-ready," he added with emphasis.

Rufino also said that Lakas has a "deep bench" from which to choose Ms Macapagal's running mate.

The list includes Vice President Teofisto Guingona and Senators Juan Flavier, Renato Cayetano, Robert Barbers, Loren Legarda, and Ramon Magsaysay Jr.

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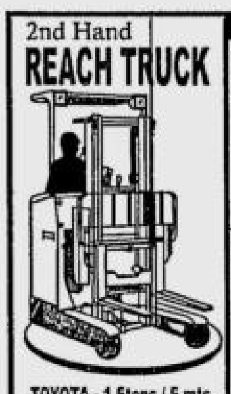

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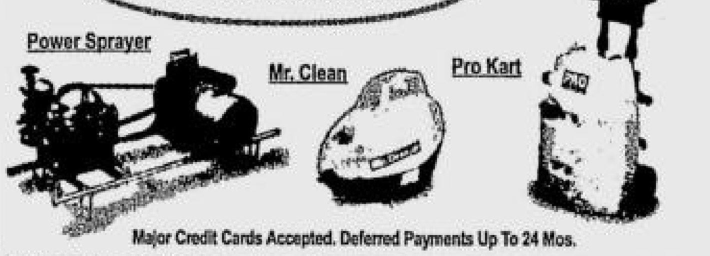

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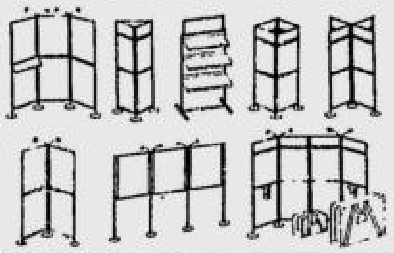

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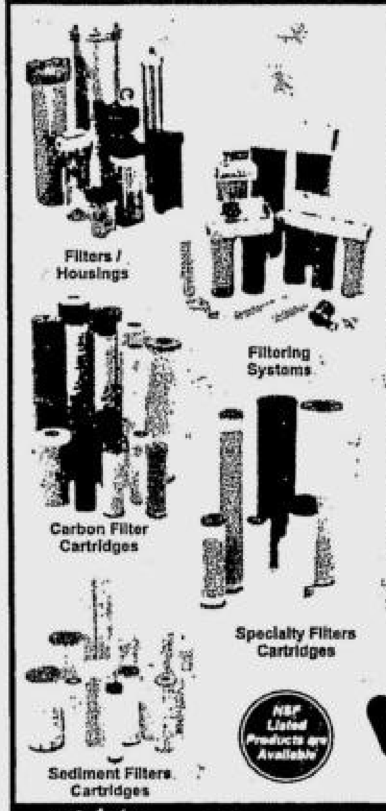

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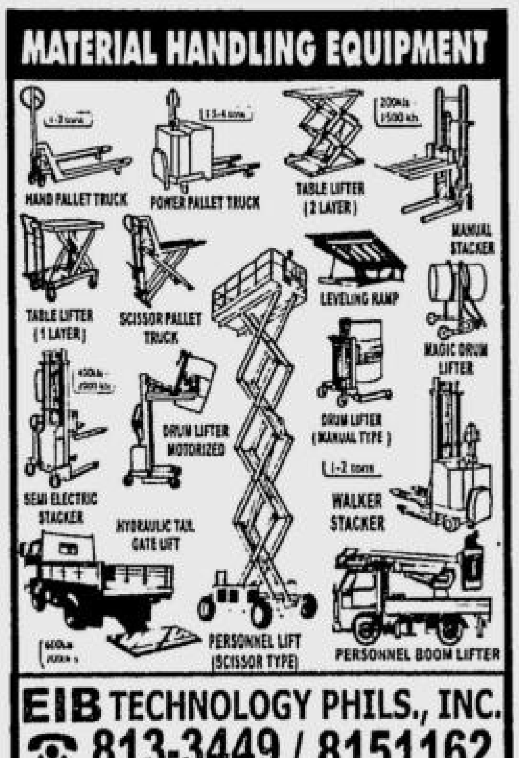

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Study finds corruption rife in Asian justice systems

SINGAPORE—Corruption and political interference are rife throughout police and justice systems in Asia, according to a regional survey in which only four countries headed by Singapore are viewed favorably.

At the bottom of the heap is Indonesia where the "whole legal system is in desperate need of an overhaul," according to the survey of expatriates by the Political and Economic Risk Consultancy (PERC).

In attempting to define a stereotype, PERC said in its latest Asian Intelligence report that countries where the legal system has been graded most harshly "are either relatively poor or under communist control, or both."

Countries with roots in British Common Law ranked high with the exceptions of the Philippines and India, relatively poor countries "and this has provided fertile ground for bureaucracy and corruption."

Apart from Singapore and Hong Kong, Japan and South Korea which both borrow from British law were the only other countries given a pass mark by expatriates marking the legal system in countries where they work.

In a strong criticism of China, PERC said the reason many people in the public and private sectors are willing to risk quite draconian penalties for crime "is a good indication that they do not feel particularly threatened about being caught or prosecuted."

The judicial system in China was rated "unreliable, vulnerable to corruption and difficult to deal with," and the ultimate authority in the country was the Communist Party and not the law.

The report said there was a misconception that China's entry to the World Trade Organization would somehow make its legal system compatible with WTO rules in the short term.

"It is not simply a matter of changing laws, however, but of training lawyers, judges and police and then making the systematic changes to remove the present system's idiosyncrasies. This will take years, if not decades."

India's legal system was said to have been seriously hurt by corruption brought on by low levels of pay for the judiciary and police Indonesia came in for the most scathing criticism with "corruption and political interference" undermining a legal system which has "little integrity."

"The bottom line is that Indonesia's whole legal system is in desperate need of an overhaul, but it is doubtful that the present government has the will or the ability to conduct such an exercise."

Of all the developing countries covered by the report, the PERC said Malaysia arguably has the best legal system and had largely overcome questions about its independence raised during the trial of former deputy premier Anwar Ibrahim.

"Throughout this relatively controversial period, a lot of the debate over the integrity and independence of the legal system was carried out by lawyers and judges. This is therefore an example of the checks and balances that still exist in Malaysia."

The same could not be said of Thailand where the legal system had deteriorated to the point that only Indonesia was worse.

"The failure of successive governments to raise the performance and ethics of the police force has become a national scandal," the PERC said.

"The police are under-educated and underpaid. They are still a major engine of corruption."

The report noted that Thai police have fleets of expensive European cars for routine work but almost no forensic experts.

In the Philippines, police are involved in kidnappings and murders, and people feel so insecure that some areas are said to have set up their own militias.

With the survey rating countries on a scale of one to 10, Singapore was seen to have the best legal and police system with a rating of 1.7, followed by Hong Kong (2.9), Japan (3.67) and South Korea (4.83).

Of the countries which failed to reach the pass mark, Malaysia was rated at 6.29, then Taiwan (6.33), Vietnam (7.08), India (7.33), China and the Philippines (7.78), Thailand (7.96) and Indonesia (9.83).

The survey also took in the United States and Australia as a Western barometer, with the United States topping the poll at 1.67 and Australia placed third with 1.82, just behind Singapore. **AFP**

Doronila chosen Author of Month

AMANDO Doronila's book is so hot it's practically subversive.

Now the author of the controversial "The Fall of Joseph Estrada: The Inside Story" has been chosen Author of the Month by the country's largest bookstore chain.

This means exclusive shelves and more prominent display in all National Bookstore branches nationwide, for the whole month of June.

The privilege goes to an author, whether local or foreign, who has exceeded sales expectations, according to National Bookstore officials.

"The Fall" debuted April on National's best-seller list for nonfiction at No. 1. Now on its seventh printing, the book has sold more than 7,000 copies.

"I expected the book to be a success," said Doronila, INQUIRER editorial consultant, "but not this big a success."

Co-published by INQUIRER Books and Anvil Publishing, Inc., "The Fall of Joseph Estrada" was launched alongside "Between Fires: Fifteen perspectives on the Estrada Crisis" at the Manila Polo Club early this year. President Macapagal-Arroyo attended the twin launch.

The second book has 15 authors, including Doronila. It peaked at No. 6 on National's bestseller list, and is now on its sixth printing.

"The Fall" was recently submitted as evidence in a case filed against several armed forces officials in connection with Edsa 2 in January 2001.

"This shows the book is credible, and not a hit job," said the 74-year-old author.

Karina Bolasco, Anvil Publishing manager, admitted that she was also surprised by the book's success, sales-wise.

"Doronila is a respected journalist and political analyst, and he is read by the intellectual elite," Bolasco said. "But sales of books about Estrada had declined (at some point). We thought people were tired of politics, so we approached these two books not very optimistically."

But, she said, Estrada's firing of his lawyers for the Sandiganbayan trial stirred up interest in the ex-President again.

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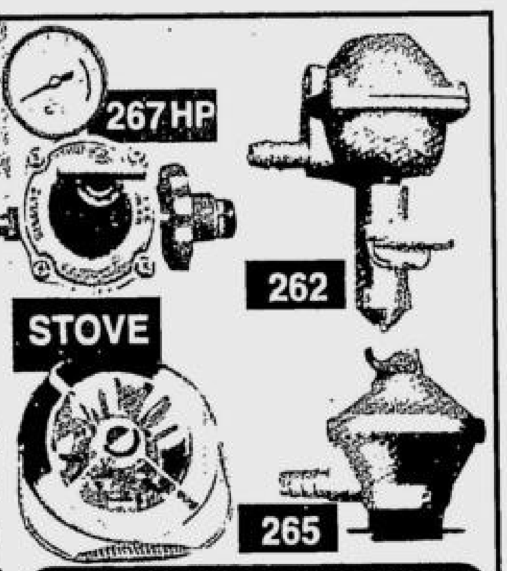
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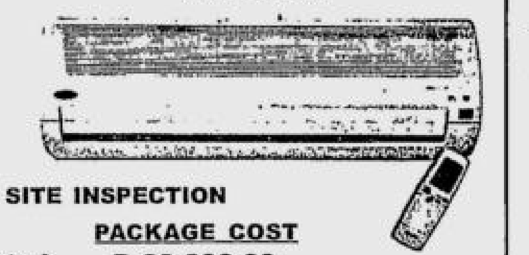
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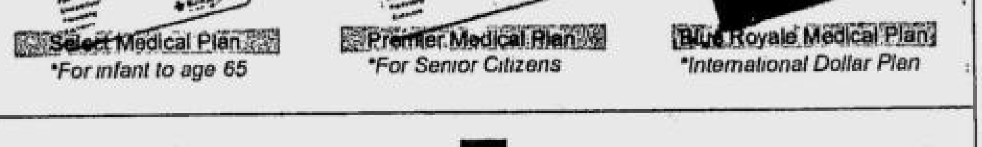
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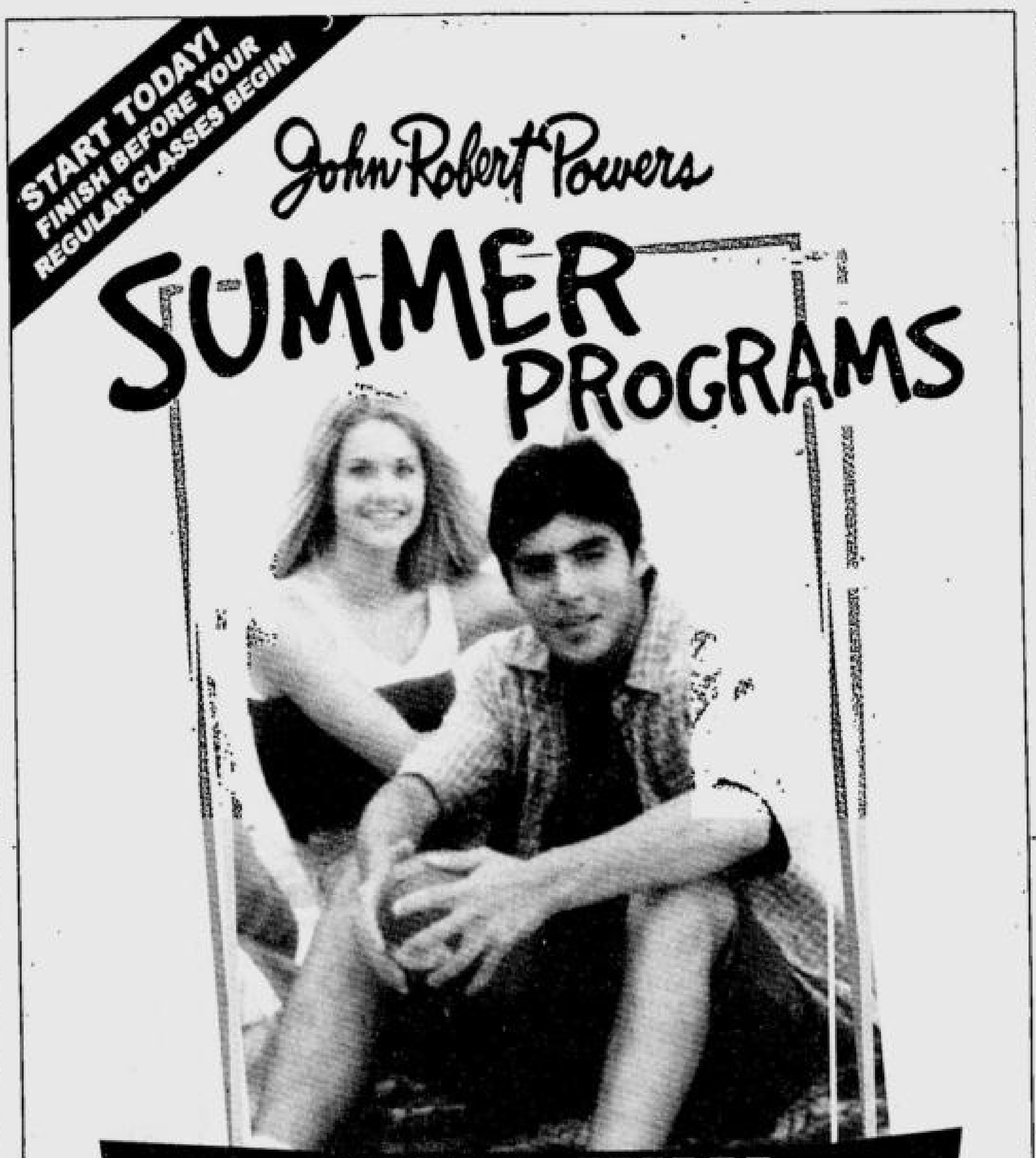
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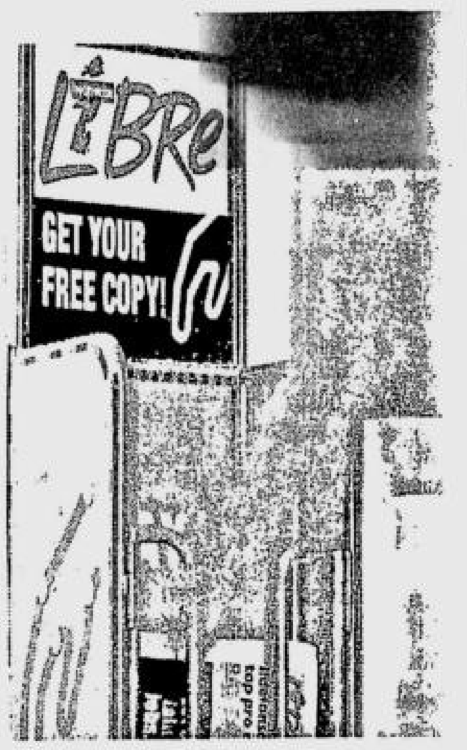

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No.0747 Series of 2002

DOLE warns illegal workers of stiff penalties in S. Korea

By Blanche S. Rivera

"DOUBLE-CHECK," the Department of Labor and Employment has told hopeful overseas Filipino workers looking at job opportunities in South Korea.

Labor attaché Reydeluz Conferido said that after verifying a job opening, the applicant should diligently comply with all requirements.

Conferido said the Korean government has imposed stiffer penalties against undocumented OFWs. Once arrested, he said, illegal aliens would be penalized, deported, and banned from entering the country again.

Undersecretary Merlin Magallona of the Department of Foreign Affairs earlier told the DOLE of the new and stricter measures that Korea had adopted starting March 12.

On the other hand, Conferido said, the Korean manpower system was set to allow more foreign workers into their industries, and goodwill shown by regular entries at this point would be helpful.

Workers absorbed under the new climate would be signed to contracts incorporating employment terms with social welfare and retirement benefits, a big improvement from current agreements binding foreigners.

Employers of illegal aliens would be fined 30 to 50 million won (P1.2 to P2 million) or serve a three-year jail term if found out.

According to a report from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, the Philippines sent 752 OFWs to Korea in the first quarter of the year. At least 2,555 documented OFWs are there now.

Singapore, another favored host country of the OFWs, is furthering the protection of foreign workers by accrediting employment agencies bringing them in.

Labor attaché Merriam Cuasay said in a report that the Singapore Ministry of Manpower presented the plan to Parliament following reports that many workers, mostly domestic helpers and particularly those brought in by unscrupulous agencies, have become victims of abuse.

Malaysia

The oppressive situation is not exclusive to Singapore, of course. The family of domestic helper Gloria Pangasian has asked the government's help in seeking justice for her mysterious death in Malaysia last year.

Pangasian's 28-year-old son, Celso Vega, said his mother reportedly committed suicide by hanging herself with a nylon cord on March 2, 2001 in Kuala Lumpur.

He said the body of Gloria, which arrived in Manila five days later, bore bruises and contusions all over. The fingernails had been pulled out, an obvious sign of torture, Vega said.

Details of the autopsy report released by the Malaysian government were confusing, he added.

Pangasian, 45 years old at the time of her death, had been employed by one Tan Cheng Siang since 1998.

The victim's family lamented the "sluggishness" of the Overseas Worker Welfare Administration, and appealed to President Macapagal-Arroyo for immediate action on their plight.

Senate work team readies anti-corruption bill

A SENATE technical working group is finalizing a draft measure aimed at plugging loopholes in the government's state procurement system, which loses about 20 percent of its annual budget to corruption.

Sen. Edgardo Angara said the draft would consolidate the three bills filed by Senators Loren Legarda-Leviste, Robert Jaworski and Sergio Osmeña III.

Under the consolidated draft, anti-corruption mechanisms will be anchored on such measures as expanding the pool of bidders and streamlining and standardizing the procedures for procurement of goods, civil works and consultancy services.

The measure will also establish a Government Procurement Policy Board and institutionalize an electronic procurement system.

"The committee is now concentrating on political reform measures and on fighting corruption in the government," said Angara, chair of the Senate committee on constitutional amendments, revision of codes and laws and electoral reforms.

Angara noted that a World Bank study had found that over the last 20 years, the Philippines lost $48 billion due to graft and corruption.

"At the root of the evil is the flawed procurement process now being used by the government," he said.

Angara noted that "corruption is a monster that gnaws at the fabric of good governance."

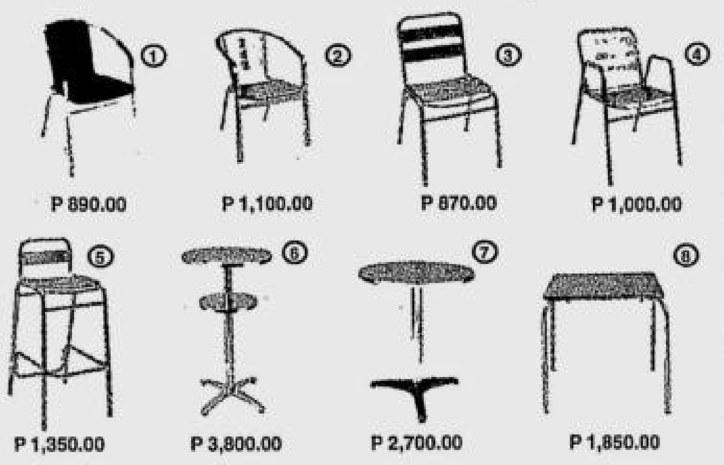
Last year alone, a total of P21 billion of the government's P104-billion procurement budget was pocketed by officials and contractors, according to Camarines Sur Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr.

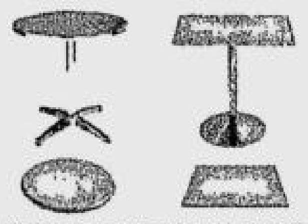
ANGARA

Andaya revealed the money lost to corruption in connection with the Procurement Reform Bill recently approved by the House Committee on appropriations.

House Bill No. 4809 is principally authored by Andaya, Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr., Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales II and Negros Rep. Charlie Cojuangco.

HB 4809 also seeks to reduce and stamp out corruption in the procurement of goods and services by the government.

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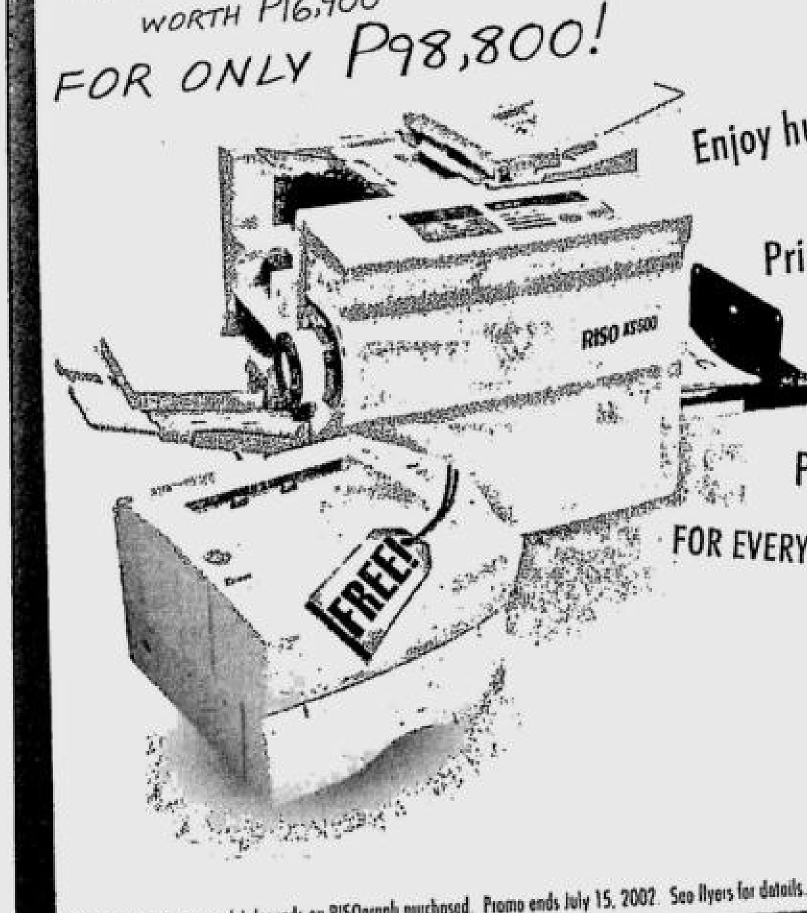
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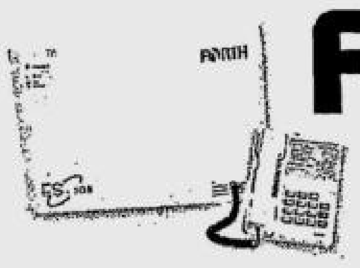
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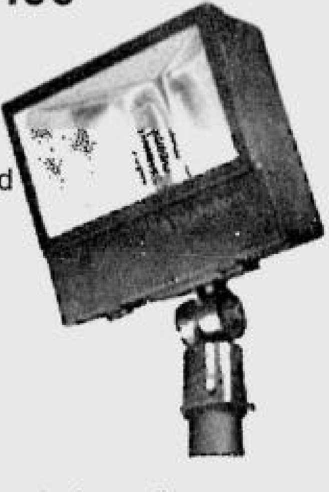
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RUN FOR THE DISAPPEARED JOAN BONDOC

Activist priest Robert Reyes leads relatives and friends of victims of involuntary disappearance in commemorating the International Week of the Disappeared with a run from the Quezon Memorial Circle to the University of the Philippines parish church in Diliman, Quezon City. Human rights groups have listed 1,778 unresolved cases of missing persons.

State apathy, Church hamper RP population control moves

OPPOSITION from the dominant Catholic Church and the apparent indifference of the government led by President Macapagal-Arroyo, a devout Catholic, are hampering efforts to slow down galloping population growth in the Philippines.

The President's avowed disdain for birth control has alarmed economic planners and businessmen, who see the population problem as a major roadblock to this country's economic growth.

Almost 40 percent of the 80 million population live in poverty, earning less than P50 a day. Moreover, the country has one of the highest population growth rates in Asia, at 2.36 percent annually—compared to, for example, 1.8 percent in Thailand.

But in a recent radio interview, Ms Macapagal said she was not worried by forecasts that the country's population would double in 29 years.

"Frankly, I'm not (worried) because the world's population will also more or less double, and it is not only our problem, it's the whole world's," she said.

She dismissed predictions of massive social dislocation, saying "technology always overtakes Armageddon."

Although Ms Macapagal cited family planning as the best measure to curb population growth, she also said couples should make this decision "according to their cultural and religious beliefs."

This is widely regarded as a nod to the Catholic Church, to which the vast majority of Filipinos belong.

The Church disallows the use of artificial contraceptives and has campaigned hard against efforts to promote birth control devices and techniques.

It also wields considerable influence over Ms Macapagal, a Catholic who starts off each day with a Mass.

Church leaders played a key role in the popular uprising in January last year that resulted in the downfall of scandal-ridden President Joseph Estrada and the installation of Ms Macapagal in his place.

Ramon San Pascual, deputy executive director of the independent Philippine Legislators Committee on Population and Development said the President's stand on population growth is not just for show.

"She is quite consistent about this. Even in private gatherings, she would comment that population is not an issue at all," he said.

Health workers say "higher-ups" in government have been intentionally withholding support for population programs.

Church pressure has been used before against officials who promote birth control.

Former President Fidel Ramos, a Protestant and his health secretary, Juan Flavier, were publicly pilloried by the bishops for their policies.

The government relies on the US Agency for International Development to provide funding for contraceptives because local lawmakers are afraid that allocating local funds would antagonize the Church.

Abortion is illegal here, but church groups work against all birth control devices. They also brand population control a nefarious plot of wealthy countries to keep the developing world in line.

Josefina Cabigon, director of the state-run University of the Philippines' Population Institute, says there are cases of priests from their pulpits, naming women who use birth control devices to embarrass them.

But more people are telling Ms Macapagal that she must act on the population problem if she wants to tackle poverty levels.

In a statement last week, the country's main business group, the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, called on her to develop an "explicit and effective population policy."

With "an education sector unable to prepare its students for the challenges of the future, and natural resources quickly vanishing, the prospect of reducing poverty becomes progressively bleaker," the group warned, citing the threats posed by too many Filipinos.

The country's multilateral aid donors have reportedly identified population growth as possibly the biggest threat to sustainable economic development in this country, finance department sources said.

Lorenzo Roquero, director of the government's family planning program, said they received a budget of P79 million this year, a slight improvement from last year.

"We are facing a conservative congress," he said, adding that local funds would go mainly to counseling.

Rather than trying to hit demographic targets, he says the government is treating birth control as a way to improve the health of mothers and children.

Despite church teachings, surveys have found that most Filipinos favored access to contraceptives.

Roquero says surveys of married women of child-bearing age found they wanted an average of 2.7 children but would bear an average of 3.7 children in their lifetimes.

"We are making sure the (issue of) desired number of children will be addressed," says Tomas Osias, head of the official Commission on Population, which sets population policy.

He says about one million married Filipino women of reproductive age cannot get the contraceptives they want, Osias said.

Even the Church itself has come to realize the dilemma the country faces unless it lowers its birthrate.

Several bishops have decided to work with the government in popularizing "natural family planning" methods which do not use artificial contraceptives and which the Church approves. *AFP*

Boracay continues to lure tourists

More arrivals noted despite power problems

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

BORACAY ISLAND, Aklan—Tourists continue to flock to the world-famous island resort of Boracay despite its lingering electricity problems and the unresolved hostage crisis in Basilan, according to government reports.

Tourist arrivals in the first quarter reached 125,829, data from the regional Department of Tourism showed. The figure is 7.72 percent more than the 116,813 visitors recorded in the same period last year.

The peak season for tourism in Boracay, known for its pristine white beaches and crystal clear waters, is from January to May.

DOT records showed that the influx of visitors had boosted hotel occupancy by an average of 66.91 percent. In April, occupancy doubled in more than 200 resorts on the island.

Of the total number of visitors, domestic tourists numbered 96,509. Foreigners numbered 29,320.

East Asians comprised the biggest number of foreign visitors at 18,960, followed by Europeans, 6,306, and North Americans, 2,481.

Based on country of origin, Korea had the biggest number of visitors with 16,650, followed by the United Kingdom (1,677), Germany (1,518) and Japan (1,442).

The tourists poured in P2.3 billion in just three months, more than double the P1.1 billion registered in the same period last year, according to the DOT.

The number of visitors to Boracay has been on the upswing since 1996. Arrivals declined slightly in 1997 and 1998 during the Asian financial crisis, and bounced back starting 1999.

For the past six years, gross income from tourist arrivals has averaged nearly P3.5 billion yearly. Last year, tourists poured in P4.86 billion into the local economy.

Karen Reina, president of the Boracay Foundation Inc. (BFI), credits the continued upswing in the number of visitors to the "aggressive" advertising campaign through newspapers and television. The BFI is composed of owners of restaurants, dive shops, supermarkets, banks and market stalls.

But Reina said the frequent brownout and drop in power supply had remained the pressing concern of resort owners. Last year, the brownouts lasted an average of two and a half hours daily.

A three-day brownout hit the island in March after the National Power Corp. cut off power supply due to unsettled debts incurred by the Aklan Electric Cooperative, amounting to P109 million.

The power disruption began March 18 and affected Boracay and 16 municipalities of Aklan and two municipalities of Antique.

Power was restored on March 20 after a three-member management team from the National Electrification Administration took over the operations of the cooperative, but the brownouts continued.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has assured residents that a 23-kilometer transmission line from Nabas town to Barangay Caticlan in Malay town, which covers Boracay, would be completed in October.

The 69-kilovolt project, costing P46 million, is expected to stabilize power supply on the island.

"We will see if our problems will be solved by October," Reina said.

Consumer groups represented by Reina have asked for a seat in the Akelco board. Boracay residents, including resort owners and restaurants are the largest stakeholders among the cooperative's 59,753 members.

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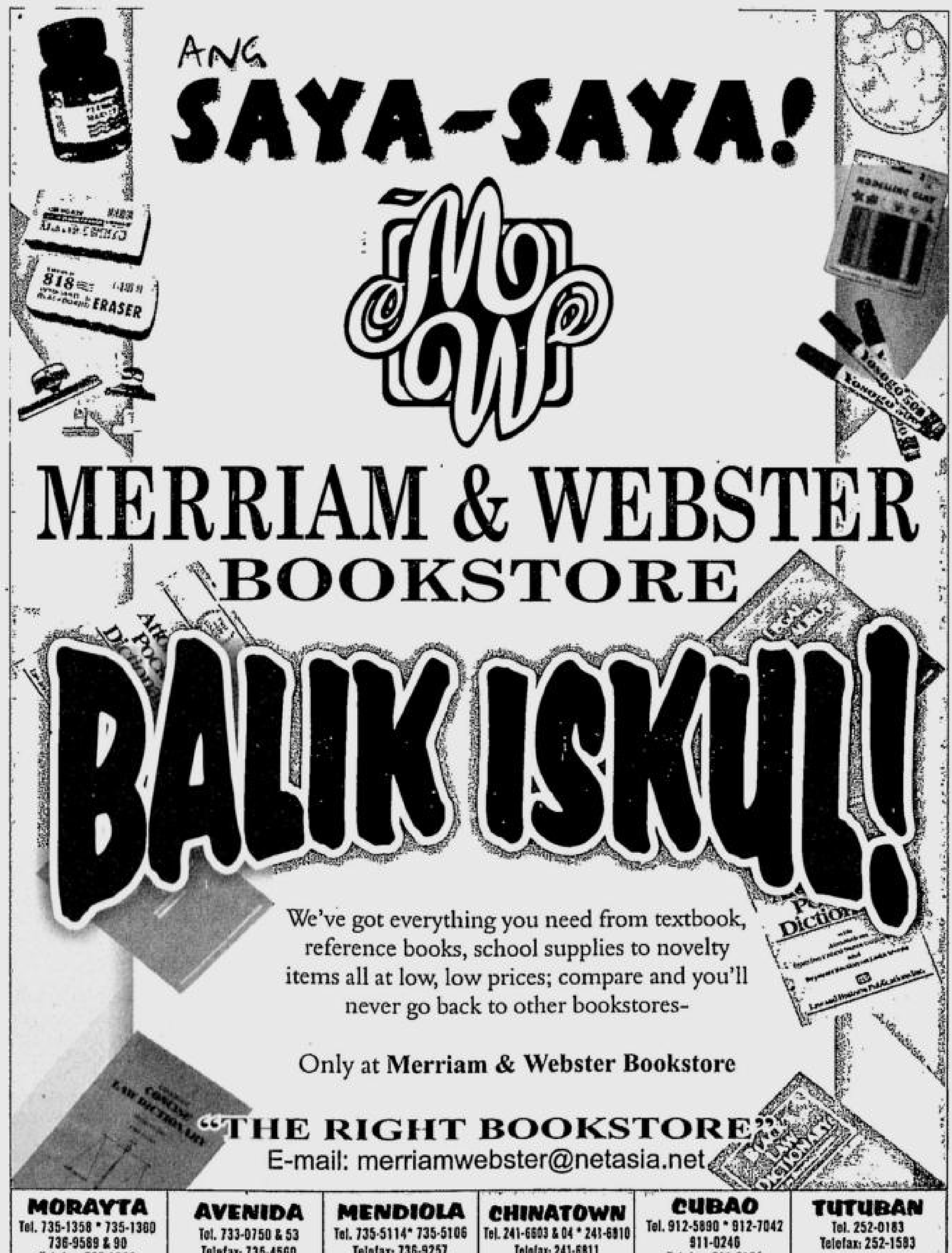

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EUGENIA
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EDITORIALS

Police story

THE MOST graphic image from last Friday's harrowing hostage drama was a result of the television networks' decision to obscure the faces of both hostage and hostage-taker. Their intention was obvious, to respect the persons involved and to protect the viewing public's sensibilities, but the effect was unintended. A horrified nation saw the tracer lines of bullets appear from the sides, and then disappear into the cloudy, pixelized center of the screen.

A similarly skewed vision on the part of the policemen on the scene must have sealed the fate of 4-year-old Dexter Balala, whom 37-year-old Diomedes Talvo took hostage at about 1:30 a.m. on Friday, inside the Philtranco bus terminal in Pasay City. The policemen acted—or reacted, to be more precise—with only a hazy idea of their central task. The result was one more avoidable tragedy.

"This is an isolated incident and should not be imputed to the leadership of the Philippine National Police," Acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable Jr. said on Saturday.

He is right, but only because he does not go far enough. The fiasco confirms that side by side with the PNP's tradition of public service thrives a culture of incompetence. The policemen "handling" the crisis seemed intent on violating every single rule of engagement applicable in hostage-taking situations: containing the crime, cordoning off the crime scene from spectators and journalists, centralizing command in one officer on site, assigning a trained police professional to handle all negotiations and so on, ad nauseam.

As the entire country knows by now, the most essential rule, the central task, was also the most violated: Keep the hostage safe. Southern Police District chief Jose Gutierrez said the victim "died from shock due to stab wounds and gunshot wounds." Talco wielded a knife. Only the 19 policemen in the operation carried guns.

"He had four stab wounds in the back and one in the nape," Dexter's mother Salvacion said in Filipino the day after her son died. "And he had one gunshot wound below the heart and two in the thigh. I think the shot below the heart killed my son."

"This is a clear case of poor indoctrination and indecision on the part of the responding authorities," Afable quoted President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as saying. The problem of poor training and poorer performance, however, is endemic; it afflicts the PNP as a whole. The tragedy last Friday only reminded an anxious citizenry of the sorry reality all over again.

Media as story

BUT it was not only the police who mishandled the crisis. The media also misplayed its part.

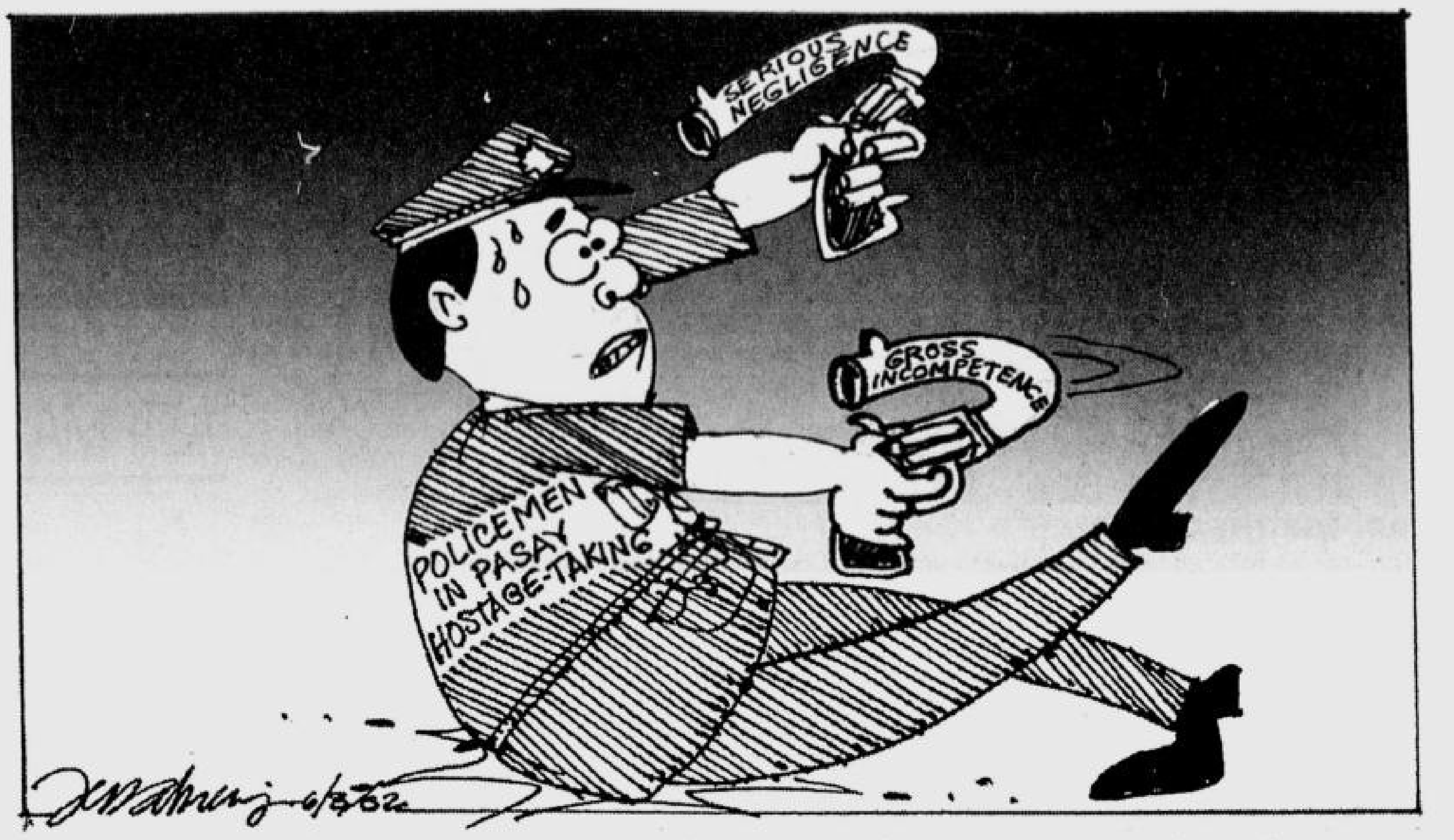
When—to give only one example—GMA TV reporter Michael Fajatin arrived on the scene, he almost immediately found himself face to face with the hostage-taker and his victim. Without so much as a second's pause, he and his cameraman decide to interview the obviously disturbed Talvo on the air and later offer their services as intermediaries.

In our news culture, Fajatin's quick wit and derring-do pass for journalistic virtues. In fact, GMA news programs Saksi and The Front Page presented Fajatin's report as a scoop. GMA, our partner in Inq7, the country's leading news website, is a Philippine leader in journalistic excellence, but in this sorry episode it fell behind the curve, as other TV stations did too.

Unless expressly called for by the situation, and even then only with the most stringent safeguards in place, journalists must never assume the role of hostage negotiators. There is an inherent conflict of interest when a newsman helps make the news instead of merely reporting it; but there is an actual risk of loss of life when an untrained amateur insinuates himself into a hostage negotiation.

The camera may, like music, soothe the savage beast, but it is just as likely to enrage it. This possibility should be enough to make journalists doubly wary of trying to determine the outcome of a violent event, instead of reporting it.

We have a job to do. It is hard enough to make a decent go of it, without our taking on the responsibilities of the police.



Meralco rates can be cut by P1 per kWh

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THE GOVERNMENT take over Meralco and Philippine Airlines? That's the surest way to run the two corporations to the ground. Didn't the government have control of Meralco and PAL before? And that because it couldn't afford the losses any more due to years of mismanagement, they were sold to private investors?

Let's face it, government is a bad manager. Because of corruption, extravagance, inefficiency and political favoritism, government corporations are money losers in spite of gargantuan subsidies paid to them by the taxpayers. That is why we have a policy of privatization, to let private investors take over and run the government corporations. Isn't that the reason we privatized the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System? Isn't that the reason we sold Petron to Aramco? Isn't that the reason we passed the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (Epira) to privatize the National Power Corp.? Isn't that the reason PAL was sold to Lucio Tan?

In fact, Tan didn't want to buy PAL because it was a money loser but was prevailed upon by President Fidel V. Ramos to buy it to bail out the government. Tan has been losing billions of pesos since then to keep PAL flying, and I think he would be very happy to have someone take it off his hands.

The world airline industry is suffering because of the economic recession, the terrorist jetliner attacks on New York and Washington, D.C. on Sept. 11, 2001 that dampened people's desire to travel by air. Almost all the world's airlines are suffering. PAL is no exception. Add to its problem its troublesome unions and the government's erratic airline policy, and you will wonder at Tan's business sanity if he does not want to drop PAL like a hot potato. In fact, PAL was almost closed down permanently by a labor strike, forcing the Philippine government to call in Cathay Pacific Airways to service the stranded travelers. Because of the loss of revenue, PAL was unable to pay its debts and was forced to go into receivership and roll over its loans. Having the government take PAL from Tan's hands would be like throwing the turtle into the water. Just give him his money back and you can have PAL—that probably is his fondest wish.

Why does the government want to take over PAL? Because PAL is opposing an "open skies" policy. "Open skies" means opening Philippine air space to all the airlines of the world without giving the national flag carrier, PAL, equal privilege in their home countries. The simplistic logic here is that the more airlines fly into the Philippines, the more tourists they will bring. And competition will force fares down. Wrong.

Airlines will fly only routes that are profitable. Airlines will fly into the Philippines only if there are many passengers who want to come here. But passengers are staying away not because there are not enough carriers but because they know it is unsafe to come here, what with kidnappers on the loose. Also, that it is hard to go to our pristine beaches and islands because of transportation problems. On land, traffic makes traveling slower than going by camelback. On sea, not only are the vessels overloaded, the chances of a vessel sinking or catching fire is highest in the Philippines.

Make the Philippines safe first—(and, this is equally important, provide clean comfort rooms that don't make you retch)—and make travel comfortable and tourists will come here in droves. Tourism Secretary Dick Gordon, instead of shouting "Wow Philippines," should do the above so that tourists, after coming here, will say "Wow, how safe, clean and comfortable!" Short of that, even if you open the skies and take over PAL, they will stay away.

* * *

As for Meralco, it is now the favorite villain of the month because it is collecting the hated PPA (purchased power adjustment). But it is only the collector of the National Power Corp.—for which it doesn't even get a commission like other collectors do. Every centavo of the PPA it collects from customers is immediately turned over to the Napocor. But as the bearer of bad news, the people want to shoot Meralco.

Legislators are now scrambling with investigations and hearings and a number of bills to lower or suspend the collection of the PPA and make the people happy. All those things, however, will not make the debts that the PPA is paying for disappear. They will still be there—and much bigger—when the present President and members of Congress are reelected and the PPA collection is resumed.

And yet it is very easy to quickly lower electric rates by at least one peso per kilowatt-hour. And it can be done administratively; no need to enact any legislation. Here is how:

Do you know that Meralco customers are subsidizing the power consumption of people outside the Meralco franchise area in Luzon and even those in the Visayas and Mindanao? The Napocor is charging Meralco customers 40 centavos more per kWh than other consumers. In short, we in Metro Manila and environs are paying for part of the electric consumption in the Visayas and Mindanao and in northern and southern Luzon. This is what is called "inter-grid subsidy." An "intra-grid subsidy," on the other hand, means that the Napocor charges large distribution facilities like Meralco a higher rate than the Napocor's actual costs.

Simply by removing this "inter-grid subsidy," we can immediately lower Meralco rates by 40 centavos per kWh.

Meralco buys power form the Napocor at P4.40 per kWh. But it can buy cheaper power from its own two power producers: from Quezon Power Limited at only P3.30 per kWh and from First Gas Power Corp. (which uses clean natural gas) at P3.80 per kWh. But Meralco is forced by the Napocor to buy 90 percent of its supply from the Napocor and only 10 percent from its two IPPs.

By using more of the power bought from these two IPPs, Meralco can lower its rate by an additional 60 centavos per kWh. That plus 40 centavos from the "inter-grid subsidy" adds up to an immediate one-peso reduction in Meralco rates, no sweat.

The trouble is that the two IPPs are not allowed by the Napocor to transmit more of their power to Meralco. They are at present operating at only 70 percent capacity. The reason: "transmission constraints," whatever that means.

But if the Napocor and the members of Congress would only give priority to solving these "transmission constraints" and the "inter-grid subsidy," Meralco consumers would immediately get a relief of one peso per kWh.

Postscript to a tragedy

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

PRESS Secretary Silvestre Afable says: "This is an isolated incident and should not be imputed on the leadership of the Philippine National Police."

He was referring to the hostage-taking incident in a bus station in Pasay City that led to the deaths both of the hostage-taker and the hostage. An autopsy has revealed that the dead hostage, 4-year-old Dexter Balala, bore not just knife wounds but bullet wounds. No one knows for sure what killed the boy. Except the boy's mother, Salvacion. She is certain it was one of the bullets that pierced her boy's heart that killed him.

Deputy Director General Edgar Aglipay admitted over the weekend that Balala had been shot. I saw him on TV last Friday, shortly after the tragedy, insisting in an interview with ABS-CBN that the boy had not been shot, he had been stabbed to death. The evidence has helped to change his mind. He now drew an astute conclusion from the bullet wounds: "These indicate that he was shot."

Afable is right when he says this is an isolated incident, but so only in one respect. This is an isolated incident in that it happened to have been filmed in its entirety by the broadcast media and beamed to a horrified public in all its grisly detail. Had it not been so, the cops who fired at the hostage-taker while he used the boy as shield would have been free to tell reporters that the hostage-taker had been armed with a knife and a gun. Had it not been so, Supt. Eduardo de la Cerna, chief of the Pasay City police force, would have sat back on his office chair and congratulated himself for a job well done, although he would have wished it had turned out a little bit better with the boy having lived—but you can't win them all.

That is the only thing that is isolated about it. Otherwise, it happens all the time. Particularly in obscure places in the country, or even in Metro Manila in the dark of night, where suspects are gunned down and reported next day to have been caught in the act of pushing drugs or robbing a pawnshop, or fleeing from the scene of a crime. How many mothers, wives and children have wept bitterly before the cameras, unable to comprehend how their sons, husbands and fathers turned overnight into criminals? Only a few days ago, I saw a woman doing so, sobbing her heart out, while her small kids milled around her, after her husband was killed presumably in a shootout while pushing drugs. She lived in a hovel and pointed to it as proof of her husband's innocence. As did her neighbors, who knew her husband well. If he had been a drug pusher, they said, would they have lived in such squalor?

The only isolated thing about the tragedy in Pasay City is that finally some poor folk may seek redress for it.

Everyone has harped on the incompetence of the police, on their lack of preparedness, on their ignorance of the rules of engagement. It's obvious but it's true. In this country, force is not the last resort, it is the first one. The frequency with which hostage-takers end up dead suggests so. That cops are not punished for it, and even get commended for it, cannot dissuade them from that practice.

But I suspect the problem goes deeper, and involves not just the police. I suspect it goes beyond even contempt for life to an inability to see life. The cops who respond to crises like this do not see themselves as confronting a real life-and-death situation, they see themselves as living out an action movie. They do not see themselves producing disastrous real-life consequences with gung-ho tactics, they see themselves splashed on the covers of newspapers looking like Rudy Fernandez. Media must share the indictment here. How many cops have we glorified for being excellent sharpshooters, accurate snipers, lightning-quick SWAT units? How many cops, or civilians, have we **not** praised for being plain reasonable they managed to talk hostage-takers into submission?

Indeed, the public itself must share the indictment here. How many times have we not protested the line that a criminal was "drug-crazed"? That is the magic wand that turns reality into fantasy. The cops say a hostage-taker, or any criminal, is "drug crazed," and everything is removed from the plane of the rational and put on the plane of the unreal. Everything becomes permissible. A drug-crazed man is by definition impervious to reason, so the rules of reason cannot apply in his situation. The premise is that he is going to kill the hostage anyway for no other reason than he is drug-crazed. Therefore, only violence—of the surreal kind we just witnessed—will do.

That was what the cops said after the incident at Pasay City: The gunman was drug-crazed. And it might have passed for fact if we had not published a story that showed the hostage-taker to be crazed only by life's misfortunes. Who knows what might have happened if someone had just talked to him? Or gotten his kin to talk to him on a phone?

That is what allows these tragedies to happen, the air of unreality around them. Except for the kin of the dead whose bloodied tears are only too real. If you are a parent, you will have an idea about the depths of pain Dexter's parents must feel at his loss. Can you imagine something like that happening to your small boy or girl? It is enough to drive you absolutely crazy and do the completely rational thing, which is run after your child's killers. My heart goes out to Salvacion Balala. I can only hope she finds justice long after her son's frail and precious body becomes another statistic in this murderous country, or worse, yesterday's news.

I'll just pause for now, and say a prayer for the boy.

Gov't offices way below par in computerization

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

SEN. Loren Legarda wrote this column to explain her sponsorship of an amendment to Senate Bill 573 that she had originally authored, which sought to declare two Muslim holidays, Eidul Fitr and Eidul Adha, as national holidays. These would have brought the current number of holidays authorized by law to 10. Legarda's SB 573 eventually became SB 2026 as sponsored by the committee on constitutional amendments, revision of codes and Laws chaired by Sen. Edgardo Angara. Eidul Fitr is celebrated by the Muslim world at the breaking of the 30-day fast of the holy month of Ramadan, while Eidul Adha is celebrated every 10th day in the month of Hajj or the 1,400-year-old Islamic Pilgrimage to the holy city of Mecca. I had written earlier that the senators were disposed to recognizing Eidul Fitr as a Muslim national holiday and Eidul Adha as a regional holiday in Muslim Mindanao.

* * *

Legarda pointed out that in her consultation with Muslim leaders and the community, they proposed Eidul Adha to be celebrated as a national holiday as well, "as it shares the same universal appeal as Eidul Fitr." She recalled the apprehension of Senator Angara about too many holidays affecting national productivity and Eidul Adha being a four-day celebration in other countries. To which Legarda countered that other countries with multi-cultural constituencies have more national holidays than we do, and that Adha could be celebrated in only one day. She also stressed that her primary concern in proposing the twin Muslim holidays was to bring about "true reconciliation" and extend the same courtesies as other countries have for the Christian faith to a sector of our society "which has been wrongfully perceived and sometimes unfairly projected." The two holidays, she argued, would enable the Islamic sector to get its long-overdue recognition.

* * *

Calling all computer advocates: On Friday and Saturday, June 7 and 8, 2002, there will be an interesting seminar and exhibit at the Megatrade Hall of the SM Megamall along Edsa, called "eGobyerno 2002." The seminar/exhibit will show how advanced or lagging behind government is in its efforts to log on to the millennium technology, the field of information and communication technology (ICT), as mandated by the e-Commerce Act sponsored by Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. in 2000. In addition, there will also be exhibits on the latest equipment, hardware, software, products, expertise and services of private companies engaged in ICT. Among the seminar topics to be tackled by ICT experts and authorities are "Global Best Practices in eGovernment;" "LGUs and Governance;" "Beyond the eCommerce Law: A Legislative Agenda for e-Philippines" and "Toward an Honest, Responsive and Open eCivil Service." The exhibit and seminar will be jointly sponsored by the Information Technology and e-Commerce Council and the Congressional Oversight Committee on e-Commerce chaired by Senator Magsaysay.

* * *

As Senator Magsaysay explains it in Concurrent Resolution No. 7 at the Senate, the congressional oversight committee on e-Commerce is tasked to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the status of the implementation by national government agencies of the e-Commerce Act that he authored, now that the law is already two years old. The e-Commerce Act provides for the use by all government departments, bureaus and agencies as well as government owned and controlled corporations of electronic data messages, electronic documents and signatures within two years of the effectivity of the law. It also mandates the installation of an electronic online network, the RPWeb and a domestic internet exchange system to implement this shift to electronic technology by all the government offices, so that they would all be linked to one another for greater coordination and effectivity.

* * *

But as in many other aspects, government is still far from reaching its target on this second year of the e-Commerce Act. A survey conducted by the National Computer Center last year revealed that there are still about 112 out of 399 national government agencies with no Web presence whatsoever. In addition, the NCC has no figures yet on how many agencies, using the UN-American Society for Public Administration's five stages of government, have enhanced Web presence, or interactive Web presence; transactional and fully integrated Web presence. But an independent study made in April of this year by Digital Philippines on "e-Government in the Philippines: Benchmarking Against Global Best Practices" revealed that of the 140 national government websites examined, there is no transactional government websites yet in the country; 14 percent or 20 of the websites were unreachable; 24 percent or 34 fall in Stage 1, 42 percent or 59 in Stage 2 and only 19 percent or 27 can be considered interactive.

As is evident, says Senator Magsaysay, so much remains to be done to put the country on the modern electronic highway, and the Senate hopes to find remedies for it.

* * *

This column is glad to lend space to promote books being published here, given that the habit of reading, which our generation indulged in as we grew up, today faces a bleak future among the young people because of competition from more attractive distractions like computer games, video movies, etc. One set of books I'd gladly plug is the famed Fr. John P. Delaney's two-volume "Chapel Chismis" in paperback at P500, available at Popular Bookstore's new location, 305 Tomas Morato Ave., Quezon City, Tel. No. 372-2162, 372-2150, or e-mail: popular@world.net.ph. "Chapel Chismis" was not just about goings-on and colorful personalities in the UP Catholic community of the '50s, but also about doctrine, especially on the Holy Mass, couched in the late Father Delaney's lively and inimitable style.

Celebrating the feast of Muhammad

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Datu Amir Baraguir

MORE than one billion Muslims all over the world commemorated the birth of Prophet Muhammad—upon whom be God's peace and blessings—last week. The Prophet's birthday is either on the 12th (after his Companions' reckoning) or 17th (after his Household's) in the Muslim lunar month of Rabi al-Awwal.

Muslims in the Philippines also hold Maulud an-Nabi celebrations in different ways, according to their diverse cultures, exposure or upbringing. There could be no other more appropriate time to recall the things that this post-Nazarene sage, mystic and divine messenger brought to the world, these islands included.

Of course, cynics will say that his most dramatic contributions were the Sept. 11 suicide bombers, Osama bin Laden's terror network or Abu Sayyaf kidnappers. But none of these were prescribed by The Prophet, his traditions or the Holy Scriptures revealed to him by Allah, the Most Merciful.

There are more positive, enduring and authentic legacies that "the unlettered prophet," faithfully and truly bequeathed to mankind. In the Qur'an he preached, and the complementary sayings which later came to be known as Sunnah, was laid down the principles of the social and natural sciences along with one of the best ethical codes, to say the least. These later developed into the modern subjects taught in the earliest university on earth, al-Azhar in Egypt. He also produced descendants and followers who traveled and settled all over Asia and Africa, establishing or developing nations, polities and civilizations. As the Prophet himself put it during his first and last complete pilgrimage (hajj): "I shall leave with you two weighty things (thaqalayn): the Book and my descendants."

> As the Prophet himself put it during his first and last complete pilgrimage (hajj): 'I shall leave with you two weighty things (thaqalayn): the Book and my descendants'

He could not be exclusively credited for the teachings of the Qur'an, as he was only a messenger who delivered the message to his audience: the Muslim global community and, by extension, the whole world. But the mode and processes by which the message was successfully delivered can be justly attributed to him. Nonetheless, he primarily deserves acknowledgment for raising a household that inherited, and bestowed in turn, all the qualities and essence that the Seal of the Messengers possessed.

Among divergent nations spanning the globe, the theme of gratitude to the Prophet seems to be the common thread that unites varied cultures and ethnicities. The Maguindanaons, for instance, organize gatherings where trained chanters among the "panditas" or traditional ritual masters sing praises to the Prophet and His Household. A bed decorated in elaborate buntings and woven covers serve as a centerpiece. The "panditas" mimic the rhythmic swinging to sleep of a newborn child as they rock coconut blossoms anointed with special oils to and fro. Sweets and other foodstuffs are passed around. A "dikil," a nightlong ritual chanting of praises to the Holy Apostle, caps the celebration. Needless to say, these rituals wouldn't have survived for centuries were it not for the fact that it celebrates a sense of indebtedness and gratitude. After all, it is gratitude that keeps the good in man eternally alive.

"Ya Nabi, Salamun—alaika. Ya Rasul, Salamun—alaika. Ya Habib, Salamun—alaika!"

Comments to datuamir@columnist.com

Privatize education

COMMENTARY

Dean Jorge Bocobo

THE PHILIPPINE Constitution of 1987, in Article IV Sec. 5(5) on Education says, *"The State shall assign the highest budgetary priority to education and ensure that teaching will attract and retain its rightful share of the best available talents through adequate remuneration and other means of job satisfaction and fulfillment."*

For 2002, the education budget is P103.3 billion, out of a total national budget of P780.8 billion allocated by Congress. However, it is not well-known that a very large percentage of the education budget, between 80 and 85 percent, has to be spent on salaries of the Department of Education's nearly 500,000 employees, and on "overhead." That's all we budget for, with little left over for facilities, books and training.

Perhaps that is why, the government should pay attention to its own survey of 405,973 public school teachers, called Project Tao. In it, 55 percent said the schools they teach in have no electricity; 45 percent said they brought their own desks, tables and chairs to school; 84 percent had no running water. (How the 38 percent who said they at least had toilets in their schools managed, is a continuing mystery.)

The litany of operational, structural and material deficiencies of the public school system—including woefully inadequate teacher training, error-filled textbooks and nonexistent school buildings and classrooms—is a painful thing to behold.

But more government spending on education is not the solution, certainly not the way that whichever politician who runs the DepEd on his way to somewhere else, is bound to spend it.

I know this goes against the hidden streak of socialist idealism among our leaders, opinion-makers, social reformers and activists. Indeed, it probably goes against the initial reaction of most Filipinos, in whom the ideals of a free, universal, public education were embedded by the Americans who established our public school system. How P100 billion equals free education escapes me. After a hundred years of the public school system, we are nearly dead last in the world in math and science achievement, a fearful omen of future poverty. Less than half of the kids make it through high school. So, most idealists have kids in the private schools!

The reason I say more government spending on education is not the solution is neither political, ideological nor philosophical. The reason is pure arithmetic. The government simply does not have, and probably never will have, enough money to properly run, facilitate and continuously improve the public school system.

Why? How much money is needed annually to upgrade public schools, say, to the quality level of the average private school, to which most Filipino families would rather send their kids if they had the money?

Well, typical tuition in a good private school is P20,000 to P40,000. With nearly 20 million Filipinos under the age of 19, that works out to a staggering P400 billion to P800 billion a year in tuition fees. That does not count investments required in facilities, books and other educational materials and programs. So let's just say, we actually need about a trillion pesos, 10 times the currently budgeted amount. The government will never have that.

The analogy one might use is this. Public education is like a high jumper who is asked to jump over a 100-foot tall wall. He jumps about 10 feet and bashes his head against the wall, then we in the media and the public bash him in the head for failing. He tries it again, eating a few bananas thrown out by the porkers in Congress. He jumps 11 feet and we bash him in the head again for failing (and because he also tied his shoelaces together by cutting out science time in the school system). Anyway, you get the idea.

The government simply cannot do it alone. It has neither the resources nor the political will to do the right thing. We are doomed as a country if something isn't done, and spending another P5, P10 or even P20 billion isn't going to fix it. Idealism or none, it is still a hundred-foot wall, and the last time I checked, no DepEd memo has been issued abrogating the laws of physics or economics.

I asked Dr. Vivian Talisayon, head of the University of the Philippines Institute of Science and Mathematics Education (UP-Ismed), what her people in one of the most productive and far-sighted educational support institutions we have, think should be done. She said simply that the DepEd has to seriously address the issue of quality educational content and teacher training. She's quite right. Many public school teachers, dedicated as they are to their lonely tasks, are often just an hour ahead of the kids because they are forced to teach subjects for which they have no training or proper materials to teach from.

It is time we consider our options. Perhaps, it is time to privatize the operation of schools and give to the government the strategic role of teacher training, school accreditation and regulation and support services, which is what the Constitution actually says. Read again Article IV Section 5(5). Let it spend its P100 billion on creating a highly skilled cadre of teachers and administrators, then let them and the private sector, with its proven superior track record, take the baton and see how far they might take it. Only a new generation of tax-paying, job-generating Filipinos with excellent education will allow the government the luxury of running its own school system. Unless spent more wisely, the education budget is basically P100 billion going up in patriotic smoke in the aging vat called public school.

Foreign vs local news

READERS' ADVOCATE

Raul J. Palabrica

TROUBLE is brewing in the subcontinent. It could be the flashpoint for war between two countries with nuclear weapons capability.

Unless cooler heads prevail in India and Pakistan, prospects of the two countries engaging in armed hostilities are high. If that happens (knock on wood), the casualties could run into millions.

But how come, a reader asked, news about that tense situation has not landed on the front pages of the Inquirer? He said the deadly confrontation between Hindu-dominated India and Muslim-controlled Pakistan "has be headline material for international cable news for the l few days. The Star and Today had Page 1 stories about stand-off that could lead to the death of three to 12 milli people."

The reader believes the Inquirer will be able to give readers a more global perspective if instead of focusing Philippine politics it featured the "hot events happenin elsewhere in the world."

After saying his piece on the brewing clash between Indian and Pakistani forces, the reader shifted to last week's news about the on-going trial of former President Estrada at the Sandiganbayan. A prosecution witness testified that a certain "Baby Ortaliza" deposited, on behalf of business man Jaime Dichaves, various checks in the Jose Velard bank account that is supposedly owned by former Presiden Joseph Estrada.

"Why was this important story buried in the inner pages of the newspaper when it rightfully belongs to the front page?" he asked.

Let's start first with the India-Pakistan problem. It brings to the fore the dilemma editors usually find themselves in whenever local and foreign events of almost equal importance happen at about the same time. Which news should be given premium treatment and which one should be relegated to the inside pages?

Domestic news

The Inquirer's managing editor admits that the present India-Pakistan confrontation is big news. A misstep by an undisciplined military official of either side can send nuclear missiles flying between the two neighboring countries. One can only shudder at the disastrous consequences of that war.

While Indian and Pakistani leaders were exchanging provocative words, our country was (and still is) grappling with issues like the purchased power adjustment or PPA, the pork barrel funds the congressmen are fighting over, Meralco's alleged overbilling and the continued detention of the Burnhams by the Abu Sayyaf bandits.

Between the conflict in the subcontinent and gut-wrenching domestic problems, the editor believes the readers deserve to be informed immediately of the things that directly affect them rather than what's happening 5,000 kilometers away.

Besides, according to the editor, the subcontinent conflict was not entirely ignored. It was featured in the World section together with the news about other significant international events.

Now, if the Indians and Pakistanis actually take to the battlefield to resolve their decades-old differences, that event, the editor assured, will merit the front page because "war" is always newsworthy.

With regard to the treatment of the news about deposits made in the Jose Velarde account, the editor explained there was nothing really new about that event to justify front-page treatment.

Except for the emergence of the name of "Baby Ortaliza," the testimony given by the witnesses at the Sandiganbayan are similar to those made during the aborted impeachment trial of Estrada.

Again, between old news about Estrada and close-to-home news about the PPA and pork barrel, the editor thinks the readers would prefer to focus first on the latter. They can later turn to the inside pages if they want to keep abreast of the developments in Estrada's trial.

Evaluation

On the coverage of the India-Pakistan conflict, I share the managing editor's position that, in terms of readership value, it has a lower priority rating compared to local news.

It's true the confrontation could lead to catastrophic human casualties. But that's not really "new" news. The two countries have been after each other's throats for years and their saber rattling has taken a certain routine that crops up every now and then. If they shoot at each other again this time, it will be their fourth round of hostilities.

The readers expect the Inquirer to promptly inform them of the events that have a direct bearing on their lives. It will be nice to give the readers as much information possible about the events happening around the world, but before knowing what your neighbors are doing wouldn't it be better if you find out first what's happening in your own backyard?

Giving its readers a global perspective is something any newspaper, the Inquirer included, would want to achieve. The readers will get real value for their money. But when the pages available for the news are limited and the domestic news are as equally important as the foreign news, I am sure a newspaper cannot be faulted if it chooses to give priority to news that is close to home or the heart.

With regard to the reporting of the proceedings in the Estrada trial, I do not see anything wrong with the decision of the managing editor to relegate the news to the inside pages.

Not only were there more significant local news that were entitled to the front page than the happenings at the Sandiganbayan, there was really nothing new with the testimony of the prosecution witnesses that the readers did not already know.

In fact, many readers have complained about an overdose of Estrada news in the Inquirer, as if the Philippines rotated around what the deposed president said, did or did not do.

I'm sure when something new, really new, not rehashed or embellished, and important comes out in the on-going plunder trial, that development will get front-page treatment.

In the meantime, let's reserve the front page for the kind of news that will make us aware of the things around us that we ought know as soon as possible.

* * *

The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The Readers' Advocate" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City. Or through fax nos. 897-4793 to 94, or readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

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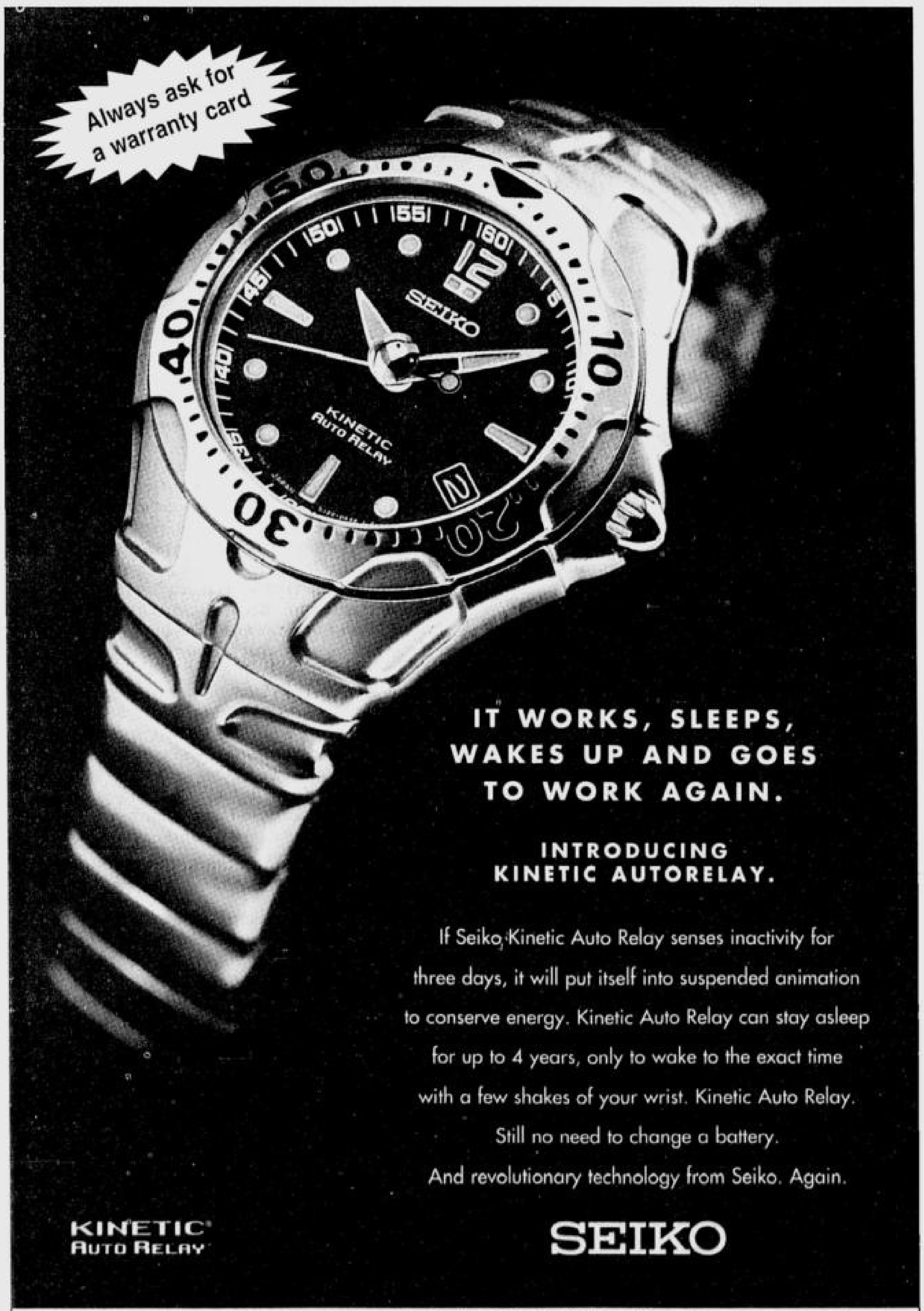
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Lands covered by CARP over-valued

LETTERS PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

I WOULD like to express indignation over the arrest of Land Bank of the Philippines president Margarito Teves. I suggest that an investigation of the cases of over-valuation of private agricultural lands covered by the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) be conducted. Apparently, these cases of over-valuation are being done through the different agrarian reform adjudication offices and special agrarian courts.

Upon the order of Nueva Ecija Provincial Agrarian Reform adjudicator Ernesto Baguilat, Teves was arrested for refusing to comply with an order to pay several landowners P75 million for a 54-hectare farm lot in Nueva Ecija. However, the lands in question have already been covered under Presidential Decree No. 27 and the landowners were already paid by the Land Bank a total of P3 million. The truth is, these landowners are demanding a reevaluation of their property under the CARP because they will get a compensation higher than what they got under PD 27.

This is tantamount to thievery, since the farmers will now be forced to pay twice for the land that has already been distributed to them under PD 27. With the higher valuation, the farmers will be forced to pay P1.4 million per hectare, an amount that is way beyond the ordinary farmer's means.

This is obviously a deliberate move by the landowners to evade the redistribution of their property to the farmer beneficiaries. Or this could also be another ploy to profit from the CARP. Whatever the reason, the Department of Agrarian Reform should investigate the growing cases of over-valuation of agricultural lands allegedly carried out through the various agrarian reform adjudication offices and courts. The perpetrators should be punished accordingly.

—GEIAH MA. G. HOMERES, Philippine
Peasant Institute, Rm. 319 PSSC Bldg.,
Commonwealth Ave., Quezon City

Rights of foreigners guaranteed

THANKS to the INQUIRER for publishing the letter of Arnold Van Vugt on May 15, 2002, protesting the directive of Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo that threatens with arrest and deportation any non-Filipino who joins a street rally.

The writer is one of the many hundreds of volunteers who have left their home countries to serve and sacrifice for the poor and oppressed people of the Philippines. Their goal is to help the people in their struggle to destroy the roots of poverty such as corruption, which is crippling the growth and development of this county.

Hundreds of these foreign volunteers are human rights defenders. They risked their lives with patriotic Filipinos to topple the Marcos dictatorship and rallied to the streets for a better Philippines during Edsa II, an event that incidentally put Domingo back in the job at the BID.

The universal human and civil rights of every person, whether foreigner or Filipino, are guaranteed under the Philippine Constitution and civil law and likewise under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to which the Philippines is a signatory.

Foreign volunteers and development workers are human rights defenders and their rights are protected under the UN Declaration on the Rights of Human Rights Defenders of Dec. 9, 1998. The Philippine government is a signatory to this international agreement.

I am astounded by the directive of the immigration commissioner. It must have come from the national security office because I know her to be very sensitive and respectful of human, civil and constitutional rights.

If Filipinos were denied their rights to march for justice in Hong Kong, London or Washington, for example, there would be justifiable outrage and cries of racial discrimination and violation of democratic values.

Van Vugt made a strong point when he noted how dollar-waving foreign sex tourists are welcomed, wooed and wedded to our poor and emaciated teenagers.

Are there corrupt practices in the BID itself? Note this. Two foreigners, connected to the sex industry, a Swiss and a German, against whom I brought formal complaints several years ago after long investigations of the evidence, were ordered to be charged by the BID deputy commissioner. The BID order against the Swiss is dated Aug. 6, 2000 and the order against the German is dated Feb. 16, 2001 .

The two are notorious and have several cases in court against them. The evidence cited by the associate commissioner links them to drug trafficking, perjury, obstruction of justice and bribing BID officials. The two have been declared undocumented and undesirable aliens by the BID.

What happened to them? Nothing, absolutely nothing. They are still out there weaving vicious webs of crime and corrupting officials. They have even been rewarded with appointments as liaison officers with their respective foreign communities.

Instead of using its powers against innocent volunteers and human rights workers, the BID should use them in upholding the law against sex exploiters and other foreign criminals who operate with impunity.

—FR. SHAY CULLEN,
Preda Center for Children's Rights,
Upper Kalaklan, Olongapo City

The buck stops with PCG

IT is unfair to blame Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez of the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) for the sinking of MT Nilode off Biliran as his detractors have done in their paid advertisement last May 21.

The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) is directly responsible for inspecting and regulating all vessels plying the Philippine seas to ensure their seaworthiness and the safety of their passengers and cargo. The DOTC has only supervisory functions over the PCG.

In the case of the Nilode accident, we have already suspended and placed under investigation the PCG officers and men responsible for inspecting the vessel prior to departure. If evidence warrants, they will be charged with negligence in connection with the alleged overloading of the vessel that reportedly caused it to capsize and sink.

Alvarez has himself ordered an investigation so that those in the PCG who had been negligent in the discharge of their duties would be punished. He also instructed that measures be undertaken by the PCG to prevent similar accidents in the future. His detractors therefore have no cause to ask for his resignation on account of the accident.

We in the PCG will not shirk our duties and responsibilities under our charter. We have already accepted responsibility for the accident, and will punish those directly negligent in accordance with law.

The buck stops with us.

—REAR ADM. REUBEN LISTA,
commandant, Philippine
Coast Guard, 139 25th St.,
Port Area, Manila

Gov't should reverse privatization program

THE DEBATES over and the protests against Meralco's proposal to increase power rates is just a pinch on the arm. A heavier blow to the Filipino people looms as the implementation of the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (Epira) begins.

We believe the solution lies in the government's reversal of its policy by deprivatizing, instead of privatizing, our basic industries and regulating their operations. The current turmoil highlights the need to nationalize not only the electric power industry but also all basic industries, including water, oil, cement, etc.

Our experience with the Oil Industry Deregulation Act of 1996 only shows how vulnerable our economy can become when the government takes away its control over basic industries. Oil prices have been increasing according to the dictates of the profit-hungry big three oil companies because the government has surrendered part of its government functions to these corporations.

We strongly believe that the Epira would aggravate the situation since this will effectively expand the control of large power firms, mostly foreign big business, not only over our power industry but other sectors that are dependent on electricity.

The Epira as a solution to the ailing power industry is a myth. It will only worsen the basic problems of low wages, unaffordable education, and ever-increasing prices of basic commodities. It will send prices of commodities skyrocketing unless the government reverses course. Instead of being used to buy food, the meager incomes of Filipinos will be spent in paying electric bills.

A review of past developments leads us to conclude that the problem is basically caused by the privatization and deregulation of our basic industries. There's no other way out but to reverse course. The government should nationalize our basic industries like the power industry.

—GIOVANNI TAPANG, national
chair, Samahan ng
Nagtataguyod ng Agham
at Teknolohiya para
sa Bayan, 132B Matahimik St.,
UP Village, Diliman,
Quezon City

Youth still want representation in gov't

THE TWO-DAY special registration for the Sangguniang Kabataan election may not have drawn wide participation, but this doesn't mean that the youth no longer want representation. What happened was the result of wrong and improper information. We cannot blame the youth like what some congressmen have done. If they want to help the youth, they should investigate the Commission on Elections and impeach the officials responsible for the disappointing turnout for the registration.

Cavite Rep. Gilbert Remulla has announced that he and other congressmen have sponsored a bill abolishing the SK, saying the youth representatives don't know their functions and have failed to provide for the needs of their constituents. Senators Robert Jaworski and Robert Barbers agreed with the congressmen. All I can say is that they would be better off focusing their attention on abolishing the purchased power adjustment and not fighting over the pork barrel. They were not elected to undertake projects. They should function as legislators.

—RAMON J. ABAD III, 182-B 19th Ave.,
East Rembo,
Makati City

Raps unfair . . .

From page A1

mony as it may settle the issue "once and for all."

The CA, deliberating on the confirmation of Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez, a former congressman, wants Climaco to disclose the findings of her committee.

But Alvarez said "Climaco's testimony regarding the Piatco contract is immaterial to my confirmation since it was signed during the Ramos administration when I was still just a minor official at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport."

Former Securities and Exchange Commission Chair Perfecto Yasay Jr., now the head of the MIA/Naia Association of Service Organizations, said he had received information that Climaco already submitted a report to the President regarding the committee findings.

"I believe they uncovered irregularities, onerous provisions that are grossly disadvantageous to the government," Yasay said.

Proposed changes

Tolentino said the 28 proposed changes in the Piatco concession which Climaco raised in her March 13, 2002 letter could not be incorporated, because most of these provisions were in fact wished for by Piatco's competitors after the bidding, he said.

"Most of these were proposed by the losing bidders later," he said.

Tolentino told the INQUIRER that Climaco must understand that the contract and its amendments were negotiated by the board of the National Economic and Development Authority.

"Those 28 provisions are not part of the negotiated contract approved and we could not just include them unilaterally," he said.

But in April, Piatco waived the exclusivity provisions in the contract, which was one of Climaco's 28 proposed changes.

Alvarez's spokesperson took Yasay to task yesterday after Maso, the main opposer of Alvarez's confirmation, came out with another anti-Alvarez print advertisement.

Department of Transportation and Communication spokesperson Ramon Cuyco said the ad was a "desperate gasping breath of an ex-would-be politician resoundingly rejected by the people during the last senatorial elections." Yasay was a candidate in the May 2001 elections.

"Who does he think he is?" Cuyco asked. "(Yasay) must be hallucinating thinking that he possesses more wisdom and intelligence than the members of the House committee on transportation both in the 11th and 12th Congresses, the Ombudsman and even Neda Director General Dante Canlas."

In a strongly worded statement, Cuyco said these government agencies had all cleared Alvarez of any wrongdoing in connection with the Piatco concession agreement to build and operate Naia's Terminal 3.

In March, the Ombudsman promulgated a decision clearing Alvarez of plunder in a complaint filed by Maso. It said the Piatco concession agreement was entered into before the Macapagal administration took over.

Only the third supplement was entered into during the Macapagal administration through the DOTC headed by Alvarez, Cuyco said, and this was cleared and upheld by the Neda.

Cuyco also accused Yasay of putting words into Climaco's mouth by claiming that she had findings that would link Alvarez to Piatco.

"Instead of Mrs. Climaco and (Piatco consultant) Mr. (Alfonso) Liongson going to jail for contempt, maybe the honorable members of the CA should order Yasay's arrest for obstructing the work of the CA," Cuyco said.

Climaco letter sought changes in Piatco contract on Naia 3

From page A1

entered into." The original contract was signed in 1997.

According to former Securities and Exchange Commission Chair Perfecto Yasay Jr., spokesperson of the MIA/Naia Association of Service Organizations, the cost of the build-operate-transfer contract has ballooned from $350 million to $650 million. Maso is the main opposer of Alvarez's confirmation.

Project cost

In her letter, Climaco noted that even the government could not yet verify the actual cost of the project.

"Our discussions have been impeded because the government cannot objectively determine and verify the project cost without receiving from Piatco the complete schedule of costs from 1996 to present date, together with the supporting documents therefor," she wrote.

Climaco noted that what her team had received "so far was an incomplete cost analysis of the project from 1996 to 2000, which was furnished by the (Piatco) treasurer, Mr. Jefferson G. Cheng."

Climaco wrote: "Without a determination and verification of said project cost, the government cannot be reasonably requested to negotiate on nor approve the proposed fees to be charged in Terminal 3."

The presidential adviser, who was once chair of the SGV accounting firm, reminded Piatco that the government transmitted on Jan. 23, 2002 its "proposed changes in the concession."

The changes include the "deletion of the exclusivity provision and the restriction on the development of other international passenger terminal airport facilities in Luzon." (On April 5, President Macapagal-Arroyo announced that Piatco had agreed to waive the exclusivity provision, paving the way for the full development of the newly renamed Diosdado Macapagal International Airport in Clark, Pampanga.)

The proposed revisions also include "limitation of the right of the concessionaire (Piatco) to expand the development facility" and "inclusion of a requirement to the concessionaire that all its tenant agreements and concession contracts must be bid out in a fair and transparent manner."

Extension

Climaco also proposed that the extension of the 25-year concession be done "only in accordance with the laws, rules and regulations in force at the time of the renewal or extension, and not merely through the approval" of the transportation secretary and the Manila International Airport Authority.

She also wrote that Piatco must "honor all existing agreements of MIAA with third parties in relation to international terminal operations."

Climaco also asked Piatco to "now give firm plans to operationalize the preference given to the hiring of MIAA employees."

"With respect to public utility revenues, the government shall retain its right to regulate and approve adjustments during the regular adjustment period (i.e. every two years)," Climaco also proposed.

The changes included the reinstatement of provisions regarding the "government's right to participate in the testing of equipment" and the "obligation of the concessionaire to warrant that its equipment are fit."

Climaco also wanted it specified in the contract that "in the event of arbitration, the governing law should be Philippine law and the rules to govern the proceedings should be the rules of the International Chamber of Commerce supplemented by the Philippine Rules of Court."

The former SGV chair was appointed by the President to review the Naia 3 contract because of allegations that it was grossly disadvantageous to the government.

Alvarez was the senior assistant general manager and chief operating officer of Naia when the concession was awarded to Piatco on July 12, 1997, Yasay said.

The Maso spokesperson has also pointed out that the Alvarez family-owned Wintrack Builders Inc. was the subcontractor for subterranean works of the Terminal 3 project.

Arrest defended

In Bacolod City, opposition leader Sen. Edgardo Angara defended the Commission on Appointment's arrest order, saying it appeared that somebody had sent Climaco out of the country so she could evade testifying.

He refused to identify the person allegedly responsible for sending Climaco out of the country, however.

"We wanted Climaco to tell the Commission on Appointments what is wrong with the contract," Angara told reporters on Saturday.

He said that Climaco's excuse that she had to go to the United States to visit a sick brother was "quite flimsy."

Alvarez will face the CA transportation committee today in its last hearing of the 12th Congress' first session.

In a teleconference call with Palace reporters, Presidential Adviser on Political Affairs Jose Ma. Rufino said it was "natural" for the ruling Lakas-NUCD to support Alvarez and another Cabinet member encountering problems with the CA, Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez.

According to Rufino, people join political parties in order to "support it and to be supported by it."

If the two Alvarezes are bypassed again today, they will have to wait for Congress to open its second session in late July. ***With a report from Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau***

UN cites Baguio 'Eco-Walk'

From page A1

highest mountain, Mt. Pulag in Kabayan, Benguet.

The two sites were the proposed venues of an aborted presidential visit earlier scheduled for this week.

Schoolchildren who have helped maintain the watershed are among the recipients of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) Global 500 Awards.

City information officer Ramon Dacawi, a prime mover of the Eco-Walk program, and Tim Tam Tibaldo, one of the children participants, will receive the award in Shenzhen, China, tomorrow. The ceremony is part of celebrations for World Environment Day on June 5.

Eco-Walk has been ongoing for the past 10 years. More than 18,000 children and adults have participated in the program.

BAGUIO CITY'S schoolchildren are taught early how to care for the environment through the Eco-Walk program.

TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Dacawi and other members of the Baguio Correspondents and Broadcasters Club, with some city and barangay officials, had formed Timpuyog ti Iit (Federation of the Broomsticks), referring to the strength of individual palm ribs when bound together. The Timpuyog drew up the concept for the rehabilitation of Busol, the city's main and most endangered watershed.

Dacawi and Timpuyog members taught the schoolchildren—through songs, storytelling and games—about indigenous environmental and forest management and practices. This made them active environmental advocates. The instruction naturally included regular visits to the watershed, where many of the activities were held.

The "living classroom" has been integrated into the curriculums of Baguio public schools. In 10 years, forest cover has increased from 20 percent to almost half of the watershed.

Fires and tree poaching were also reduced.

Five other similar projects have since been set up in the Cordillera. These are in the Sesekan watershed in Bauko; the Tayan di Muyang (Children's Common Resource) in Gonogon, Bontoc, where 7,000 eucalyptus seedlings are being maintained by children; the Lakun di Anan-ak (Children's Farm) in West Kayan in Tadian; Dalupirip in Itogon, Benguet; and Nangalisan in Tuba, Benguet.

Global network

In a letter to Dacawi, UNEP executive director Klaus Toepfer said he hoped the Eco-Walk children of Baguio City would become "part of a growing global network of allies assisting UNEP in its responsibilities."

This year's winners of the Global 500 Awards include two Asian cities and a Jordanian princess.

Chifeng City in Mongolia stopped "desertification" by launching an aggressive 30-year campaign using trees and grasslands to stop the inflow of sand.

Advocates planted 8,000 hectares of grassland in the city, and worked for forest cover to reach almost 44 percent. Food production also increased eight times since the 1970s.

Shenzhen, China's first economic zone, integrated stringent environmental laws with conscientious urban planning to achieve a balance between industrial production and environmental health.

Jordan's Princess Basma bint Ali brought to world attention the fragile ecosystem in the Middle East. She is the founder of the Jordan Royal Ecological Diving Society, National Environment Wildlife Society and Red Crescent Society.

Since its inception in 1987, the Global 500 Awards has honored 727 individuals and organizations. The list included former United States President Jimmy Carter, the Worldwide Fund for Nature, chimpanzee and baboon researcher Jane Goodall, oceanographer Jacques Cousteau, the late Chico Mendes of Brazil and the late Ken Saro-Wiwa of Nigeria.

Mendes and Saro-Wiwa had both been murdered for their landmark battles—Mendes, during his fight to save the Amazon forests and Saro-Wiwa for his work against oil explorations in his delta homeland.

Baguio's Eco-Walk children are the 13th awardee from the Philippines.

Past awardees are Sen. Loren Legarda-Leviste (2001), Las Piñas City (2000), the Oposa Group (1997), former Puerto Princesa Mayor Edward Hagedorn (1997), Nick Perlas (1994), Charley Barretto (1992), Julian Gonsalves (1991), Maria Aida Velasquez (1990), Basil Allen Rossi (1990), the Philippine Foundation of Rural Broadcasters (1990) and Dr. Celso Roque (1988).

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UK envoy laments RP media reports

By Norman Bordadora

IMAGE versus investments.

British Ambassador to the Philippines Pail Dimond said the country's negative peace and order image was getting in the way of more British investments, especially in the power industry.

Dimond said British firms are particularly drawn by the liberalization of the energy sector in the past year and a half, but media coverage that creates an unstable peace and order image has turned them off.

"There are already British companies in Mindanao and there are more businesses that want to come in. But they are held back by the media reports," he said last week in a public forum on development aid for Mindanao.

Dimond said media coverage of Mindanao gave the wrong impression that the entire island is unsafe for business. He was referring to sometimes obsessive news coverage of the Abu Sayyaf's acts of banditry and instances of terrorism in Basilan and Zamboanga, a tiny part of an island that is almost as big as Taiwan.

"When media make these reports frequently, these are picked up in the international stage. These make investors think twice about putting in more investments in Mindanao," Dimond said.

He noted that British companies in the country were already contributing to Mindanao's development.

"One area they are interested in is the energy sector. Major developments have happened in the power industry over the past one and a half years and British companies want to be part of that," the ambassador said.

Interfaith dialogue

Dimond also pushed for bilateral dialogue on "interfaith" issues between the Philippines and Britain to learn from each other's experience in peace-building amid religious prejudice and religion-based conflict.

"We would like to say that the conflict in Northern Ireland has already reached a good conclusion. It is our hope that the Philippines would also experience a similar normalization in Mindanao," he said.

He said initial discussions on the proposed dialogue on religion-based social problems and conflict have already started.

"Both governments have had it in mind and there have been briefings in London to explore the possibility of an interfaith dialogue. Perhaps, we could compare experiences and learn from each other's history," Dimond said.

He added that the dialogue could help identify the problems caused by the religious and social conflict and provide practical solutions to these issues. Both sides could also compare how each dealt with the resultant issues.

Dimond said his government continued to provide development aid to communities in Mindanao through nongovernment organizations concerned with easing the burdens of civil strife particularly in poverty-stricken areas.

He added that the British, particularly the country's business sector, could do more for the people and the economy of Mindanao.

"Already, there are major British companies that have poured in millions in investments in Mindanao. There could be more, if only the image of Mindanao would improve in the international setting," Dimond said.

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, June 3, 2002
9th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: **2 P 1:2-7**
Gospel: **Mk 12:1-12**

Using parables, Jesus went on to say, "A man planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a hole for the wine press and built a watch tower. Then he leased the vineyard to tenants and went abroad.

In due time he sent a servant to receive from the tenants his share of the fruit. But they seized the servant, struck him and sent him back empty-handed. Again the man sent another servant. They also struck him on the head and treated him shamefully. He sent another and they killed him. In the same way they treated many others; some they struck and others they killed. One was still left, his beloved son. And so, last of all, he sent him to the tenants, for he said: 'They will respect my son.'

But those tenants said to one another: 'This is the one who is to inherit the vineyard. Let's kill him and the property will be ours.' So they seized him and killed him, and threw him out of the vineyard. Now, what will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and destroy those tenants and give the vineyard to others."

And Jesus added, "Have you not read this text of the Scriptures: *The stone which the builders rejected has become the keystone. This was the Lord's doing; and we marvel at it.*

They wanted to arrest him for they realized that Jesus meant this parable for them, but they were afraid of the crowd. So they left him and went away."

Commentary

The parable of the tenants, who rejected and maltreated prophets and even killed the son of the owner of the vine, refers to the Jews. The vine represents the kingdom of God and the Jews were God's people. But the parable could be applied today to the Church if it becomes a religion of one social class, or similar to the other religions, or if we do not find in the Church more obedience to God, more commitment to values that will save the world. What would happen to Christian groups and their leaders if they began to feel that they were the owners of the Kingdom and its promises? Whenever we try to control and to use the Church for our own interests we are not respecting the Son of God and his prophets.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CRIMINAL LAW (AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES)—Treachery—Treachery is present when the offender employs means, methods or forms in the execution of an offense which tend to directly and especially ensure its accomplishment without risk arising from the challenge that the offended party might make. Where the attack is so sudden and unanticipated that the victim finds himself with hardly any chance to defend himself or to evade the aggression, treachery must be held to exist. In this case, it would appear that the appellant, upon seeing the victim rise and proceed to the fence to urinate, himself stood up and followed surreptitiously. Appellant then proceeded to quietly position himself behind his intended victim while the latter, still half-awake from sleep, relived himself. Suddenly and without any warning, appellant repeatedly stabbed the unsuspecting victim. [Citations omitted.][En banc, Justice Vitug, People v. Mosende, G.R. No. 137001, December 5, 2001]

DIGEST BY R. B. VERA

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Second Grand Draw: July 11, 2002

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TIP Expands its Curriculum with Yapster E-Learning Courses

The Technological Institute of the Philippines (TIP) recently subscribed to at least 5,000 licenses for IT courses supplied by Yapster e-Learning, Inc. Beginning June 2002, TIP students in the Manila and Quezon City campuses will have access to online courses that contain basic to advanced IT Learning materials.

Dr. Teresita Quirino, TIP's President, represented the educational institution in formalizing a three-year contract whereby Yapster e-Learning will deliver 5,000 International Computer Driving Licenses (ICDL) for use by TIP students. The ICDL is one of Yapster e-Learning's more popular courses based on the guidelines set by the European Computer Driving License (ECDL) Foundation, which was established in 1997 by the Council of European Professional Informatics Society (CEPIS). It contains lessons on basic computer operations, and extends all the way to word processing, preparing spreadsheets and presentations, and using the World Wide Web. For more advanced learners, a series of certification preparation programs such as Web Authoring, Web Programming, Internet Technologies, and a few others are also included. The ICDL course is integrated into all of TIP's degree programs in Engineering, Architecture, Business, Maritime, and Information Technology.

TIP has also arranged for the inclusion into the courseware of internationally accredited vendor specific certification courses from Microsoft, IBM, Netscape, Novell, and Lotus Notes to cater to students who are really interested in these courses.

"Offering e-Learning courses was the obvious next step towards furthering our mission to provide a high standard of relevant and well-rounded education," Dr. Quirino states. TIP recognizes the important role technology plays in the New Global Economy and has therefore restructured its curriculum for June 2002 to reflect this. A fusion of technology and traditional education, TIP's enhanced curriculum aims to make all students computer proficient no matter what course they enroll in.

"To make our enhanced curriculum work for our students, it is critical for us to be abreast with the latest and most advanced IT programs and methods of instruction. With Yapster e-Learning, this is made easier. Yapster e-Learning is really a great aid in achieving the school's thrust. I am excited for the opening of school year 2002!" Dr. Quirino concludes.

Yapster e-Learning has a growing library of over 1,200 courses, at least 50% of which are on IT. Yapster e-Learning's complete library of Business and IT courses can be viewed at www.2studyIT.com. Yapster e-Learning also features a highly engaging course design that has been proven by WR Hambrecht + Co. to increase retention rates by as much as 50-60% at the same time speed up the learning curve by 50%.

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

India, Pakistan leaders head for summit

NEW DELHI—As Indian and Pakistani leaders headed to a regional summit where they aren't likely to talk peace—or even talk at all—India's defense minister said Sunday his nation would not be "impulsive" in the crisis that threatens to put them at war.

Some Western diplomats and UN officials have left India and Pakistan the past few days amid concerns that the standoff, punctuated by daily shelling and gunfire across the border, could escalate into war between the nuclear-armed rivals.

But Indian Defense Minister George Fernandes, in a tearful speech to a military conference in Singapore, said Sunday that India would neither be "impulsive" with Pakistan nor weak in "the war against terrorism, the same terrorism which hit the World Trade Center and the Pentagon."

Fernandes reiterated India's pledge to avoid first use of nuclear weapons.

Pakistan, which has a smaller military, has not ruled out a first nuclear strike, although Pakistani President Gen. Pervez Musharraf told CNN on Saturday that "any sane individual" would ensure that any conflict would not go nuclear.

"There is no way India will ever use a nuclear weapon other than as a deterrent. We stand by our nuclear doctrine," Fernandes said.

"India will not get drawn into a nuclear arms race."

Musharraf has said for months he wants dialogue with Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, but Vajpayee says India first must see a stop to terrorist attacks by Islamic militants crossing into the Indian part of the disputed province of Kashmir. Both South Asian rivals claim the Himalayan region in its entirety.

Musharraf made no public comments as he left Islamabad on Sunday for the regional summit of 16 leaders—from Egypt to China—to be held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, from Monday through Wednesday. Musharraf was accompanied by Foreign Minister Abdul Sattar and Information Minister Nisar Memon.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has hoped the summit could help pull India and Pakistan away from their war footing.

Musharraf and Vajpayee have indicated they would meet with Putin and officials from other worried nations trying to prevent war. But India has said talks with Pakistan are not possible until and unless it sees proof that cross-border terrorism is being stopped.

"There is no plan for talks," Vajpayee said as he departed New Delhi. "If we see the result on the ground of Gen. Musharraf's statement, we shall certainly give it a serious consideration."

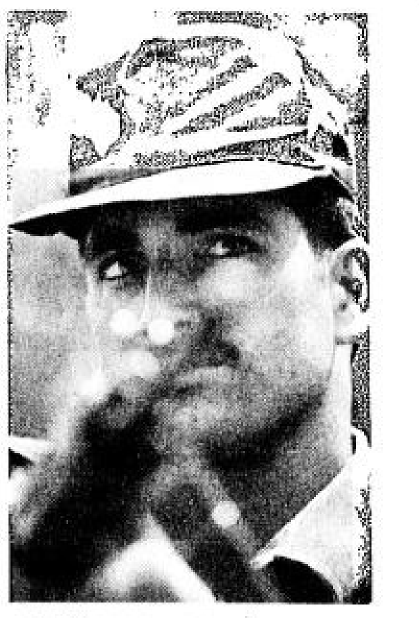
Although India says Islamic militants crossing the border from Pakistan have carried out terror attacks, including a deadly assault on the Indian Parliament in December that provoked the latest crisis, Musharraf has insisted he is cracking down.

Musharraf disputes India's contention that Pakistan actively helps the militants, saying it provides only moral and diplomatic support for Kashmiris, most of them Muslims, who want either independence or a merger with Islamic Pakistan. Musharraf has called their campaign a "genuine freedom struggle."

In Singapore, Fernandes wept as he recounted violence against Indians in Kashmir.

"I'm sorry for the difficulty I have every time I think of this," the defense minister said. "The country is angry and anguished. The pressure on our prime minister... to launch an attack is intense."

This week, Washington is separately dispatching two envoys—Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage—to try to ease tensions in the region. *AP*



AN INDIAN soldier keeps watch at the border.

Experts warn of nuke arms falling into wrong hands

SINGAPORE—Defense experts at a security conference in Singapore warned Sunday of the dangers of nuclear weapons falling into the hands of terrorists.

US Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz said the concern that "nuclear weapons or scientists with nuclear expertise fall into the hands of rogue regimes or terrorist groups is a very, very real one."

"The events of Sept. 11, if anything, ought to intensify our concerns about it," he said.

Wolfowitz said the possibility of terrorists developing nuclear capabilities was "more frightening and dangerous" than nuclear proliferation among nation states.

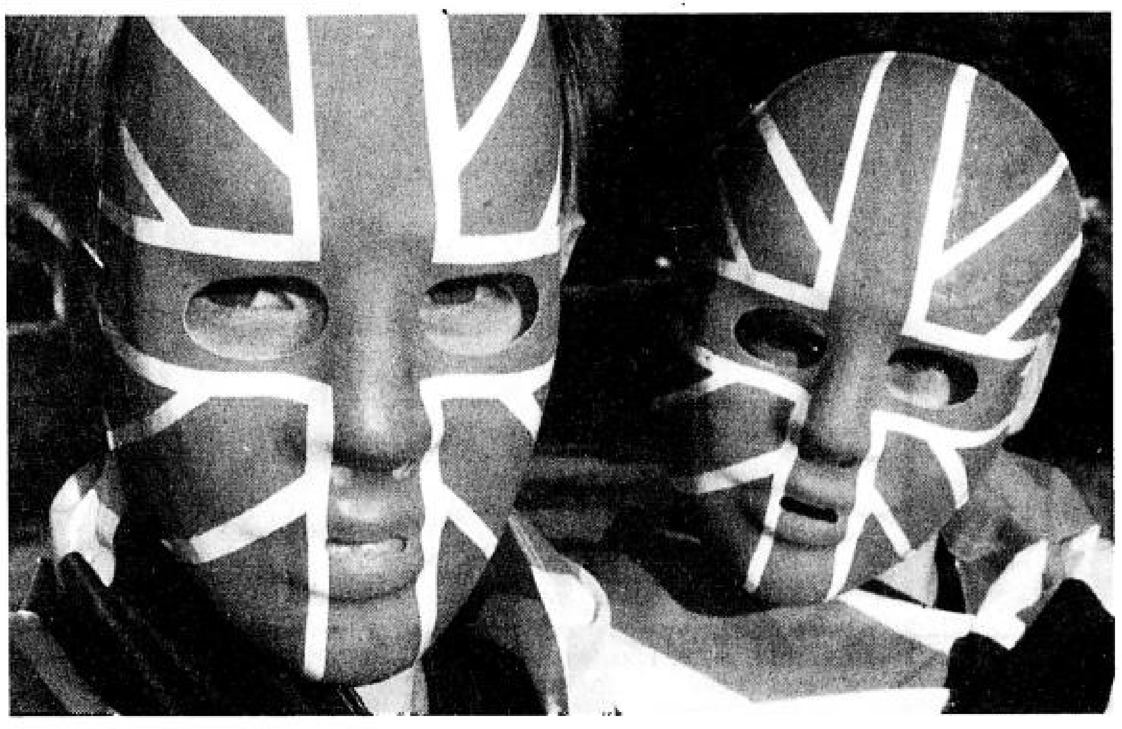
Robert Einhorn, former US assistant secretary of state and a nuclear proliferation expert, said Southeast Asian ports in particular needed to beef up security to help prevent such proliferation.

"Governments should put in place strong shipment and transshipment controls to reduce the likelihood that their countries will become conduits for the ingredients of weapons of mass destruction programs worldwide," Einhorn said.

The discussion on nuclear nonproliferation was one of a several seminars at a two-day conference organized by the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies attended by more than 150 defense officials.

Maj. Gen. Kim Kook-hun, head of the South Korean defense ministry's arms disarmament bureau and a panelist in the discussion, said his government was deeply concerned about North Korea's acquisition of weapons of mass destruction.

US President George W. Bush has singled out North Korea as a point in what he called an "axis of evil." *AP*



BOYS wearing Union Jack masks join celebrations at Buckingham Palace. REUTERS

Queen opens jubilee weekend with classical concert at palace

LONDON—Queen Elizabeth II opened Buckingham Palace to 12,000 guests for an outdoor evening of classical music Saturday, kicking off a four-day national party in celebration of her 50 years on the throne.

Concertgoers lounged on the grass in the palace gardens before taking their seats in front of the stage, and police estimated that 40,000 more gathered outside the gates to watch the performances on giant video screens in Green Park and along the Mall.

Dozens of Union Jack flags fluttered in front of the palace and vendors sold smaller versions to the festive crowd.

"It doesn't get better than this," said performer Julian Bliss, 12, who wore a white tuxedo with sparkling gold tie and vest as he played the clarinet, accompanied by pianist Ashley Wass. "It was amazing."

Black and white footage of Elizabeth's coronation played on video-screens beside the stage as the BBC Symphony Orchestra and Chorus, conducted by Andrew Davis, performed Handel's "Zadok the Priest," which was composed for the coronation of King George II in 1727 and has been played at every crowning since.

Under glorious blue skies, soprano Kiri Te Kanawa sang "Micaela's Aria," from Bizet's Carmen, and the George Gershwin classic "Summertime," from "Porgy and Bess." The London Adventist Chorale followed with a pair of spirituals.

The orchestra played a rousing rendition of Edward Elgar's "Pomp and Circumstance," a British favorite for which the crowd stood, waved flags and sang along, then cheered wildly.

Also performing were Russian cellist Mstislav Rostropovich, operatic duo Roberto Alagna and Angela Gheorghiu, and Zenaida Yanowsky and Roberto Bolle of the Royal Ballet, who danced to music from "Swan Lake."

The musicians all returned to the stage to close the evening with "God Save the Queen."

Elizabeth, in the royal box between her husband, Prince Philip, and her son, Prince Charles, stood and waved as the crowd cheered her. Afterward, she walked to the front of the palace to greet those who'd listened outside.

Eighteen members of the royal family joined 12,000 guests who won their tickets in a lottery. Charles's companion Camilla Parker Bowles was there, her presence apparently another signal of the palace's growing acceptance of the couple's relationship. She sat one row behind Charles and his mother.

Concertgoers had to show identification along with their tickets and then walked through the palace to the gardens.

"I love England and London but this is the most magical I've ever seen the city," said Keith Cheshire, 64, who came from Toronto, Canada, for the festivities.

Giant video screens broadcast the concert to audiences in parks around the country, and it was also carried live on television, *AP*

Israeli troops search for militants in 4 towns

NABLUS, West Bank—Israeli troops searched houses while tanks patrolled deserted streets in four separate Palestinian cities and towns Saturday as part of a wide-ranging hunt for Palestinian militants that has led to dozens of arrests in the West Bank over the past two days.

In Nablus, scene of the biggest operation, a Palestinian man was shot dead by Israeli forces, witnesses say.

In another development, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, who is under strong pressure to restructure the Palestinian government, has been holding talks on overhauling his large Cabinet.

In the coming days, he is likely to reduce the number of ministers from 32 to 19, and bring in new faces, according to Palestinian political sources.

But the senior Israeli official in the West Bank and Gaza Strip said any reforms Arafat was likely to agree to would only be cosmetic as long as he controls the flow of funds to Palestinian institutions.

"There is no possibility of real reform as long as long as Yasser Arafat holds in his hands the financial power," Brig. Gen. Amos Gilead, coordinator of Israeli activities in the Palestinian territories said in an Israeli television interview.

The Palestinian newspaper Al-Quds reported Saturday that Arafat would make Mohammed Dahlan, a senior security chief in the Gaza Strip, the top official in the revamped security services.

The developments came as visiting diplomats held talks with Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon in a search for ways to end 20 months of Mideast violence. But no new peace initiatives have emerged.

Arafat on Saturday hosted European Union foreign policy chief Javier Solana, who said the talks focused on reforming the Palestinian security system, rebuilding Palestinian infrastructure damaged by recent Israeli military actions, and how to restart peace negotiations, which collapsed more than a year ago. *AP*

2 UN officials expelled

KIGALI, Rwanda—Congolese rebels have expelled two UN officials in eastern Congo on charges of supporting terrorists who attacked a church and assisting armed pro-government militias involved Congo's nearly four-year war, a senior rebel official said Saturday.

Lionel Gasparot, a French UN security chief based in the rebel headquarters in Goma, and Magda Gonzalez, a Goma-based political adviser to the UN observer mission in Congo from Switzerland, have been ordered to leave rebel-held territory for threatening internal security, said Joseph Mudumbi, foreign affairs chief of Rwandan-backed rebel Congolese Rally for Democracy.

"We must expel them because their actions are hostile," Mudumbi said. "An enemy must be dealt with, even if he has diplomatic accreditation."

UN officials were not immediately available for comment.

Gonzalez is also accused of encouraging rebel officers to defect into the ranks of government troops and organizing clandestine meetings of the pro-government militias in rebel-held eastern Congo, said a statement released late Saturday.

Gasparot is accused of acting as a "letterbox" between the Congolese government and the militias fighting the rebels behind the front line.

The UN official "has put at the disposal of (pro-government militias) means of communications and supplied them with medicines and significant amounts of cash," said the communique.

The two are expected to leave Sunday morning, Mudumbi said. *AP*

Outlook improving for lung cancer patients, says study

LONDON—It's still not great but the outlook for patients with lung cancer is improving, thanks to better treatments and early detection of the first signs of the disease, Finnish scientists said on Monday.

Lung cancer is the biggest cancer killer, claiming as many as 300,000 lives worldwide each year, but more patients are living longer than they would have 20 years ago.

"Survival of lung cancer patients has increased threefold," Dr. Ritta Makitaro, of Oulu University in Finland, said.

Only 4 percent of people diagnosed with the cancer in Oulu in the 1970s were alive five years afterwards. By the 1990s the number had risen to 12 percent.

Makitaro, whose research was reported in the European Respiratory Journal, believes the figures may be even higher because more effective chemotherapy drugs are now on the market.

"It should be even better now since we collected our material in the 1990s," she added.

Makitaro and her colleagues compared the results of a five-year study of more than 600 lung cancer patients which was completed in 1997 with a similar survey of 446 patients done two decades earlier.

The results showed the tripling was the average for all lung cancers but survival varied according to the different types of tumors.

Patients with adenocarcinoma, the most common type of lung cancer in women and in people who have never smoked had a 19 percent five-year survival rate. Smoking is the leading cause of lung cancer.

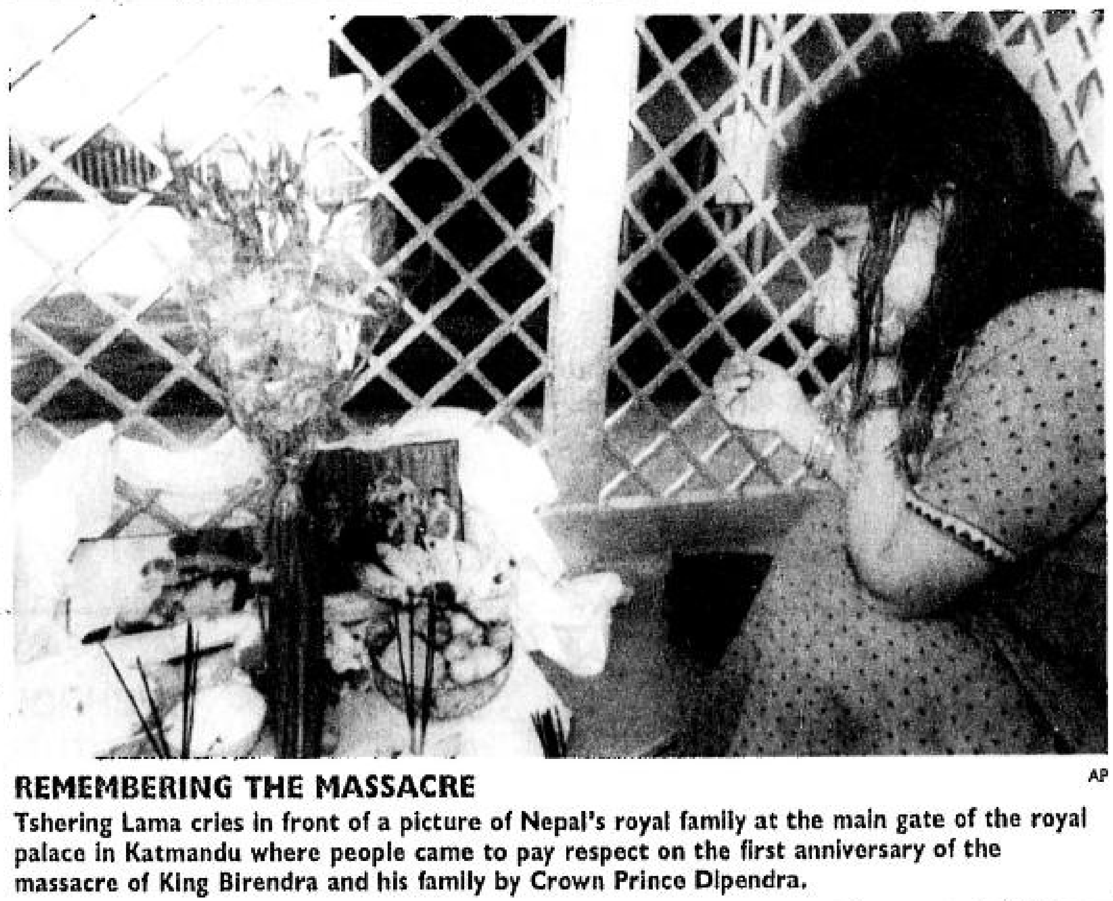
But for sufferers with small cell lung cancer, which accounts for about a fifth of cases, survival rates have barely improved during the two decades.

Like other cancers, the earlier the illness is diagnosed and treated, the better the chances of defeating it.

Patients who have had surgery generally live longer than people whose tumors have not been removed, according to the Finnish research.

"Nowadays, the pre-surgical evaluation of patients has improved, so that we can be sure that the right patients are being operated on," said Makitaro.

Survival rates for lung cancer are poor because the disease is often not detected until the cancer has spread, which makes it more difficult to treat, and until recently there were few effective drugs for the disease. ***Reuters***



AP

REMEMBERING THE MASSACRE

Tshering Lama cries in front of a picture of Nepal's royal family at the main gate of the royal palace in Katmandu where people came to pay respect on the first anniversary of the massacre of King Birendra and his family by Crown Prince Dipendra.

Malaysia party raises Islamic flag, again

KOTA BARU, Malaysia—Can Islam rule Malaysia, a country with an ethnic Malay Muslim majority but large minorities of non-Muslim ethnic Chinese and Indians?

Why not, says Malaysia's main opposition party as it revives its old dream of setting up a purist Islamic state if ever it takes over power from veteran Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad's ruling coalition.

"Islam is our objective," Mustafa Ali, a leader of the fundamentalist Parti Islam se-Malaysia (PAS), told Reuters. "It is incumbent on every Muslim to uphold Islam, like it or not."

But that message from PAS could unnerve foreign investors, alienate non-Muslims and harden Mahathir's stance that strict sharia (Islamic) laws are difficult to apply in a country that values pluralism and tolerance, analysts say.

But they add that PAS, with an eye on the next general elections and an apparent drop in support since Sept. 11, has no choice but to revert to its core theme by promising a religious state complete with the Islamic penal code or "hudud."

Islam is Malaysia's official religion and just over half of the country's 23 million people are ethnic Malays, almost all of whom are Muslims. But the founding constitution of the country that won independence from Britain in 1957 guarantees freedom of religion for non-Muslims and does not define the state as Islamic.

Mahathir—considered a moderate Muslim leader—told an audience of ethnic Chinese supporters last year that Malaysia met the requirements of an Islamic already by providing education and welfare for all its citizens.

PAS leaders, not surprisingly reject that, saying the country's laws fall short of the true teachings of Islam.

"Malaysia is a Muslim country at best and will not be an Islamic state as long as its constitution remains secular," says a PAS legal expert.

A Muslim country usually refers to one with a majority of Muslims while an Islamic state is a country that implements religious law at all levels of government and society.

With verbal attacks against Mahathir and Israeli aggression in Palestine, PAS leaders told party loyalists at a weekend annual party meeting in Kelantan state that Islam was the way forward for Malaysia.

"We struggle for the sake of Allah (God)," PAS chief Fadzil Noor told hundreds of party faithful, many clad in green flowing robes and white skull caps. While the mood was solemn, many said support for the party was in tact.

Stalls outside the conference hall sold material on Islam and posters of Osama bin Laden, who Washington accuses of masterminding the Sept. 11 attacks.

Fadzil, who was vague on the issue of hudud, said his party would give a full outline of its vision of an Islamic state before the next election, which could be held by June next year.

The party holds 27 of Malaysia's 193 federal parliament seats and controls the assemblies in two of its 13 states.

It faces a crucial test over its plan to introduce hudud law for Muslims in Terengganu state, which it won in 1999 during a surge in support generated by the sacking and jailing of the popular former deputy prime minister Anwar Ibrahim.

PAS, which rules both Terengganu and Kelantan states, has ordered Muslim women to cover their heads, banned gambling and nightclubs and limited public consumption of liquor.

Hudud law, depending on its interpretation, can mean the death penalty for adulterers and apostates and the severing of limbs for thieves. It also bars women and non-Muslims as legal witnesses and condemns rape victims found pregnant as guilty of illicit sex, an offence punishable by up to 100 lashes.

The hudud bill, expected before the Terengganu state assembly next month, is unlikely to enter into force even if it is passed. An earlier attempt by the PAS government in Kelantan failed at the federal level on constitutional grounds.

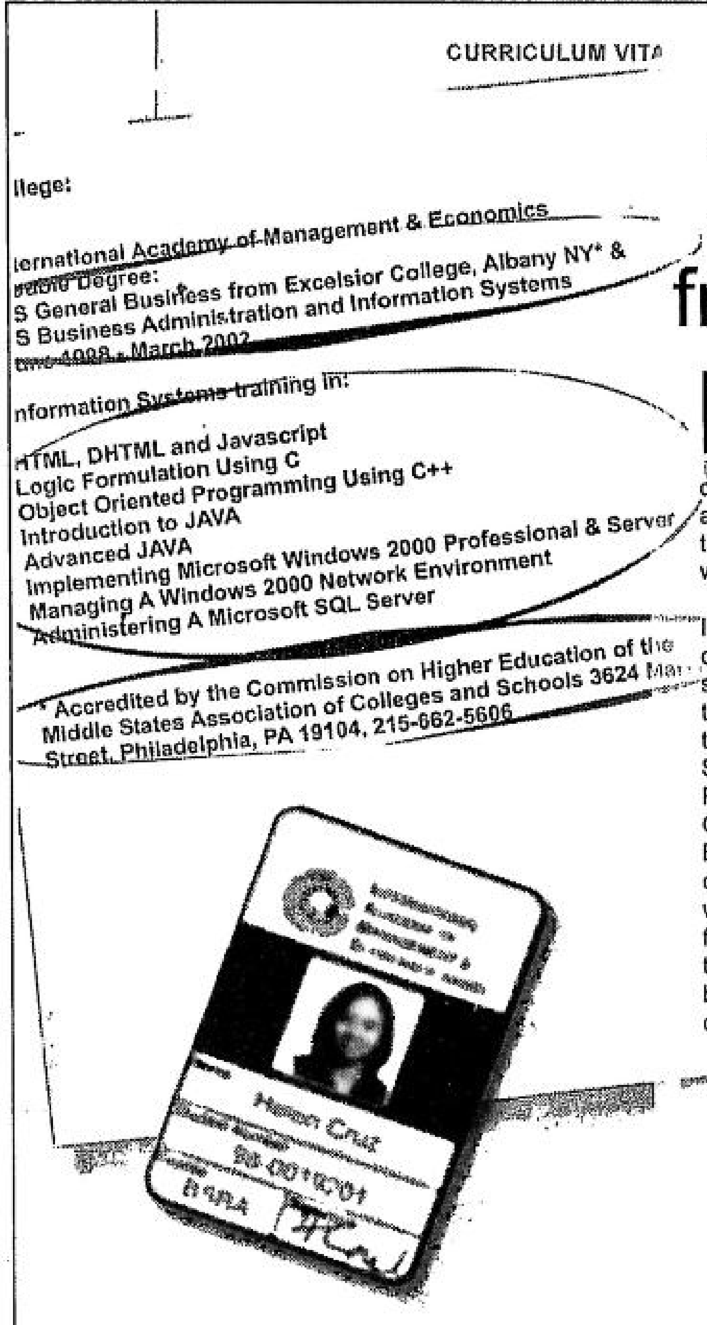
Mahathir's administration and several women's rights group have criticized the bill, saying it violates the principles of justice and equality in Islam.

Under section 9 of the draft law, the burden of proof in rape cases falls on the woman's shoulders, with the prospect of 80 lashes if she cannot produce four Muslim males as witnesses to the offence.

"In Islam, the most important requirement is justice, and if something is unjust, then we cannot do it," Mahathir said at the weekend. He said PAS seemed unbothered about justice in its vigor to introduce hudud.

Womens' rights group Sisters in Islam and 10 other organizations have also condemned the plan.

Reuters



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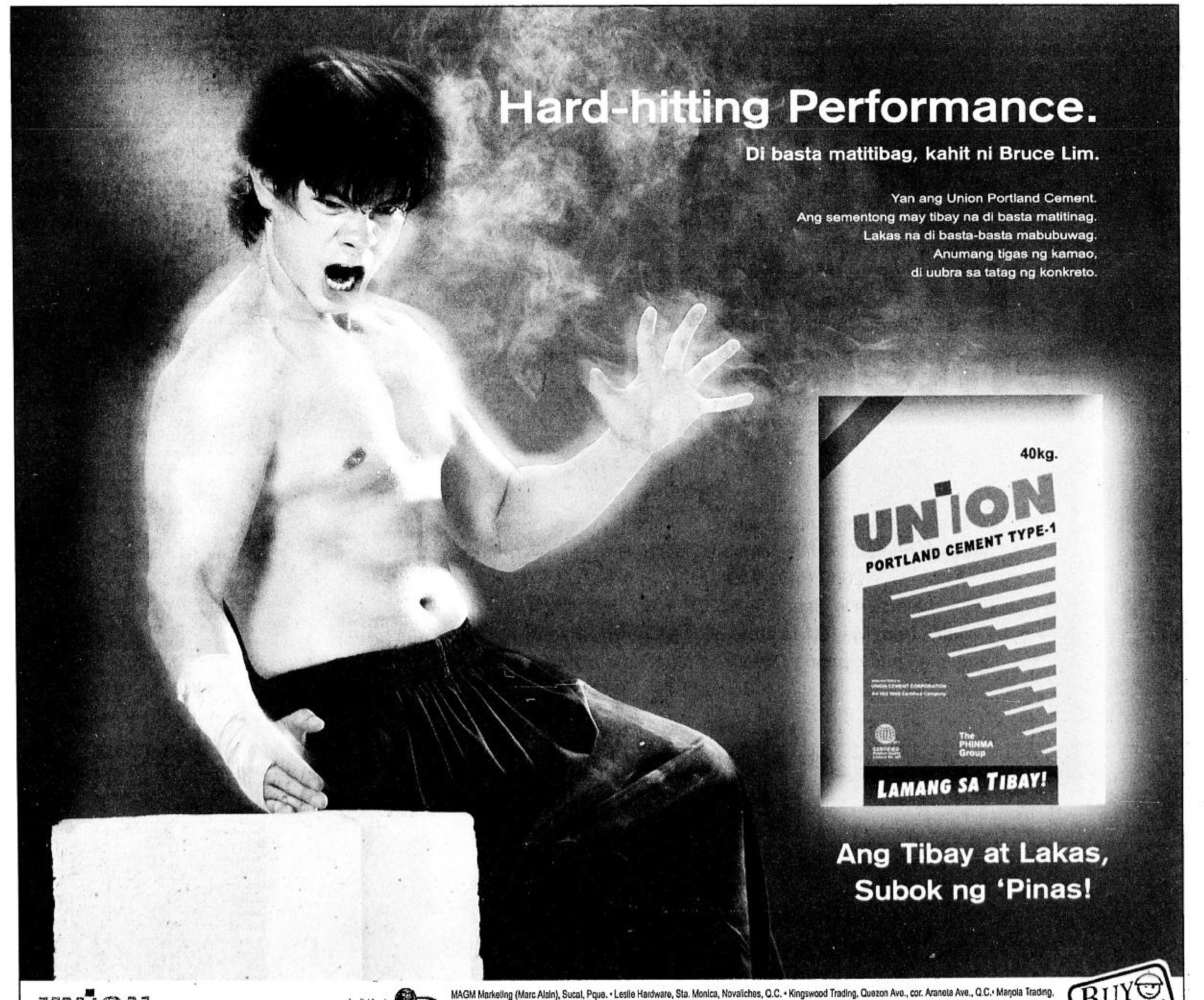

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5th graft charge filed against Chavit

By Leoncio Balbin Jr.
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

VIGAN CITY—The Save Ilocos Sur Alliance has filed a fifth graft charge against former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson before the Ombudsman on Thursday.

The group's officials and members also staged a protest rally in front of the Office of the Ombudsman in Metro Manila to urge the immediate resolution of the four cases, including a plunder charge, they filed against Singson last year.

The fifth case filed by Sisa president Nestor Segismundo, Sisa secretary general David Roca, former Caoyan Mayor Manuel Querubin and former Vigan City Mayor Liborio Arca stemmed from the unliquidated P124.7 million Singson received as cash advances when he was still governor from 1996 to 2000.

The complainants said that despite notices, Singson liquidated only P300,000 before the end of his term as governor, leaving a balance of P124,784,818.17 in unliquidated funds.

The COA, on April 17, 2001, asked Singson to "produce all cash advance and/or cash items such as official receipts and paid vouchers pertaining to the cash advance to this office within 72 hours from the receipt of this demand."

It said "failure (to do so) will constitute a prima facie evidence that (the) amount has been put to personal use which will warrant the filing of a criminal case (against Singson)."

But Singson dismissed the latest complaint filed by Sisa.

"There are no irregularities with the cash advances. I have all the documents to justify it," Singson told the INQUIRER

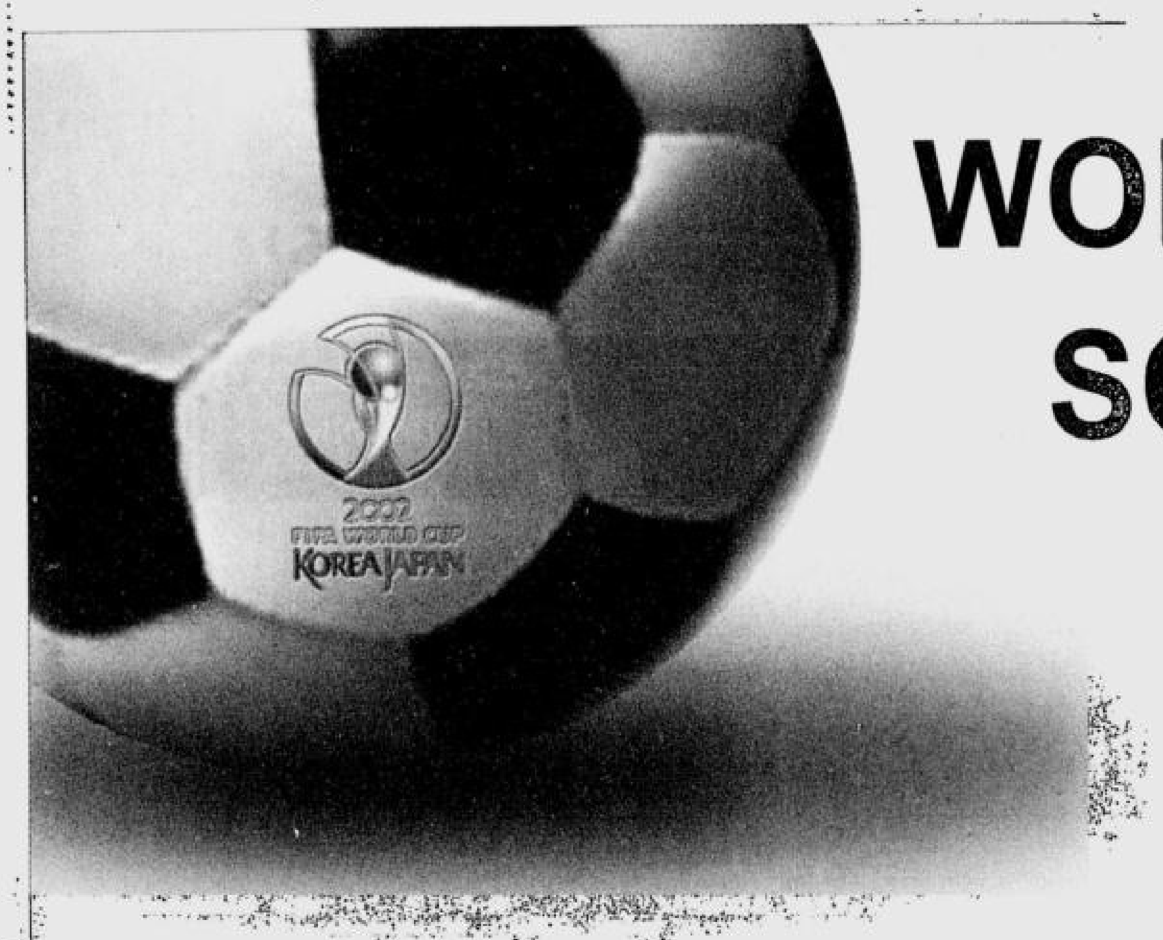
Singson claimed that P100 million from the amount was given to the National Tobacco Administration as loans to tobacco growers.

"There was a time when there were no releases from Republic Act 7171 (tobacco excise tax) funds. So as a public official, I had to act to respond to the needs of the suffering tobacco growers," he said.

There was nothing irregular in the disbursement of the remaining funds, Singson said. He said they still lack some documents to justify the expenses but once these are gathered, they will submit these to the COA.

"This continuous attack against me is the handiwork of my detractors who are paying people to destroy me, especially (since) I would again testify (in the criminal cases against former President Joseph Estrada)," Singson said.

Sisa is asking the Ombudsman to immediately resolve the four cases they filed against Singson in November and December last year.



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ARMM gov's absences hit

COTABATO CITY—Gov. Parouk Hussin of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao vowed to be the "exact opposite" of his predecessor Nur Misuari when it comes to reporting to office, but regional officials said he was no different at all.

Mama Ampatuan, secretary general of the Regional Legislative Assembly (RLA) said since Hussin was installed as the fourth ARMM governor in January, "we seldom see him around here."

Ampatuan said ARMM legislators and other elected officials have started to complain about Hussin's frequent absences.

"For the past five months, the regional governor only showed up clandestinely at his office here twice or thrice," Ampatuan said.

He said Hussin, a member of the Council of 15 that ousted Misuari as chair of the Moro National Liberation Front, would stay most of the time in Manila.

Ampatuan said the governor's practice proved to be a burden for provincial and municipal officials, who needed to discuss programs and problems with Hussin.

"He is no different (than) Governor Misuari, who was always out in Manila or abroad while his constituents were left without a leader to turn to," a Maguindanao official who wanted to remain unidentified said.

Misuari, who served as ARMM governor until he was removed for allegedly plotting the Sulu uprising in November last year, was a frequent traveler to the Middle East and other countries. ***Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Tancangco ouster backed in Iloilo

ILOILO CITY—A group of business executives here are supporting moves to impeach Commission on Elections commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco.

In a three-page statement, the Iloilo Business Club (IBC), through its chair Ma. Luisa Segovia, called for the impeachment of Tancangco for culpable violation of the Constitution and betrayal of public trust.

The IBC is composed of more than 90 senior business executives in Iloilo City.

The IBC statement was similar to the statement being circulated by the People vs. Tancangco Movement, which was composed of non-government organizations and socio-civic groups including the National Movement for Free Elections and the Makati Business Club.

The two statements identified eight instances when Tancangco allegedly committed "inefficiency and gross inexcusable negligence and betrayal of public trust."

Tancangco heads a group of Comelec commissioners feuding with Comelec chairperson Alfredo Benipayo.

IBC executive director Rowena Regalado said Tancangco's removal from the poll body is among the "many things to do" to ensure orderly and honest elections.

"Elections are just around the corner and we should put (the) interest of the nation above ourselves," Regalado told the Inquirer. ***Nestor P. Burgos Jr., PDI Visayas Bureau***

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Luzon will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming widespread rains over the Western sections of Northern and Central Luzon. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with rains. source: **pagasa**

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	HI31° Lo 24°
Baguio	Rains	HI 20° Lo 13°
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 23°
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 23°
Clark Zone	Rains	HI 30° Lo 23°
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 29° Lo 21°
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 25°
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 23°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 24°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 25°
Cebu	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 24°
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy with Rains	HI 33° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy with Rains	HI 33° Lo 24°
Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 24°
Davao	Partly Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/06/03/02

NBI seeks order to stop DOLE execs from fleeing

BACOLOD CITY—The National Bureau of Investigation here is seeking to prevent two top officials of the Department of Labor and Employment from leaving the country pending the filing of estafa charges against them.

NBI Bacolod chief Arturo Nunag said he wrote to NBI chief Reynaldo Wycoco on Thursday, asking that Bienvenido Elorcha, DOLE director for Western Visayas, and Andrea Patagani, DOLE disbursement officer, be placed under the watchlist of the Bureau of Immigration.

He said the bureau was concerned that Elorcha and Patagani might leave the country while the NBI is preparing the filing of estafa charges against them for allegedly issuing a bouncing check amounting to P20.9 million.

The NBI, he added, was still gathering evidence against the two although he was planning to file the case against them on Monday.

A person cannot leave the country if he is placed under the BI's watchlist. But the NBI has five days to file the charges against the suspects so it can request for the issuance of a more permanent hold-departure order.

The permanent hold-departure order would be issued by the court.

Elorcha and Patagani were the signatories of a check worth P20.9 million issued to the Binalbagan-Isabela Planters Association (BIPA) on April 24, which was rejected twice by the Philippine National Bank.

BIPA records showed that the DOLE released the P20.9 million check on May 2. When it check was deposited at the PNB branch in Binalbagan town, it check was returned to the BIPA because it bore different signatures.

After correcting the mistake and re-depositing the check, it check was returned to the BIPA for "insufficiency of funds."

The P20.9 million was to be distributed to about 20,000 farmers in central Negros Occidental who are working for the 3,009 planter-members of the BIPA.

The amount, which was entrusted to the DOLE, represents the 3 percent share of the sugarcane farm workers from production-sharing between the BIPA and the Binalbagan-Isabela Sugar Co. Inc. under the Social Amelioration Fund program mandated by Republic Act 809.

But this 3-percent share comes in the form of quedan, a receipt that indicates the existence of sugar stocks in a sugar mill.

Under the law, the DOLE sells this quedan to the trader. The proceeds are then remitted to the BIPA for distribution to their workers. ***Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau***

Drought forces Ifugao officials to declare state of calamity

BAGUIO CITY—The provincial board of Ifugao has declared the province under a state of calamity after drought damaged at least P100 million worth of crops in the province.

But Ifugao Gov. Teodoro Baguilat Jr. said the declaration was also prompted by the effects of continuous rains in the province since last week that have eroded portions of the centuries-old rice terraces in the province.

"The continuous heavy downpour causes erosion of the parched (soil) of the rice terraces in the province. The soil had cracked and this might lead to massive erosion if the rains continue," Baguilat told the IQUIRER in a telephone interview on Wednesday.

He said more than 2,000 hectares of Ifugao's rice terraces were damaged by the drought.

He said the El Niño weather phenomenon, which is expected to affect the country in October this year, threatens to destroy the biorhythm or natural cycle of the rice terraces.

"The sudden changes in the weather pattern make the rice terraces susceptible to erosion and threaten their natural state," he said.

Baguilat said the provincial government would soon release P6 million from its calamity fund for the repair of irrigation systems in the province, the rehabilitation of the eroded walls of the rice terraces and the clearing of landslide-affected roads.

He said the drought has also affected the planting cycle of Ifugao's native rice variety called *tinawon*, which is planted once a year.

The harvest of the native rice variety was supposed to highlight the celebration of Ifugao's founding anniversary next month.

"The harvest season of *tinawon* starts in June but due to the drought, there is nothing to harvest," Baguilat said.

He said they would perform rituals during the province's anniversary to ask native gods to save the rice terraces from further destruction.

The disturbed planting cycle would also affect the tourism industry of the province, he said.

"Tourists expect to see green terraces, not parched and brown soil. In fact, since March, we have been receiving feedback that many tourists were disappointed on the appearance of the rice terraces. We felt bad about it," Baguilat said. ***Jovelyn Reyes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

NGO defends role in land reform

DUMAGUETE CITY—A representative of the Philippine Peasant Institute (PPI) on Tuesday dared two officials of a cooperative to name the non-government organizations which they claimed were responsible for the mess in the implementation of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program in Negros Oriental.

Eugene Quirante said Moises Sycip and Edward Du of the Sycip Farmworkers Multi-Purpose Cooperative in Manjuyod town should identify the NGOs they were referring to rather than castigate all the groups.

Quirante issued the statement in reaction to the appeal of Sycip and Du to the landowners to exercise care in dealing with the NGOs and to check the backgrounds of each organization.

"It seems to me that it is only now that they have realized the seriousness and magnitude of the issue and would like to twist it by blaming us NGOs as the culprit or cause of the CARP mess," Quirante said.

Quirante, however, said the PPI was as not one of the NGOs referred to by Sycip and Du, as having connived with some unscrupulous personnel of the Department of Agrarian Reform to destabilize their cooperative.

Sycip and Du earlier said some DAR personnel, who had a "hidden agenda," connived with the NGOs in an effort to destroy the cooperatives and put them under their umbrella.

Du said the motive could be funding "because foreign funding agencies will not release money to these NGOs if they don't have people with them."

The co-op officials said their cooperative had become a target of destabilization attempts by three DAR personnel in connivance with some NGOs last year. ***Alex V. Pal PDI Visayas Bureau***

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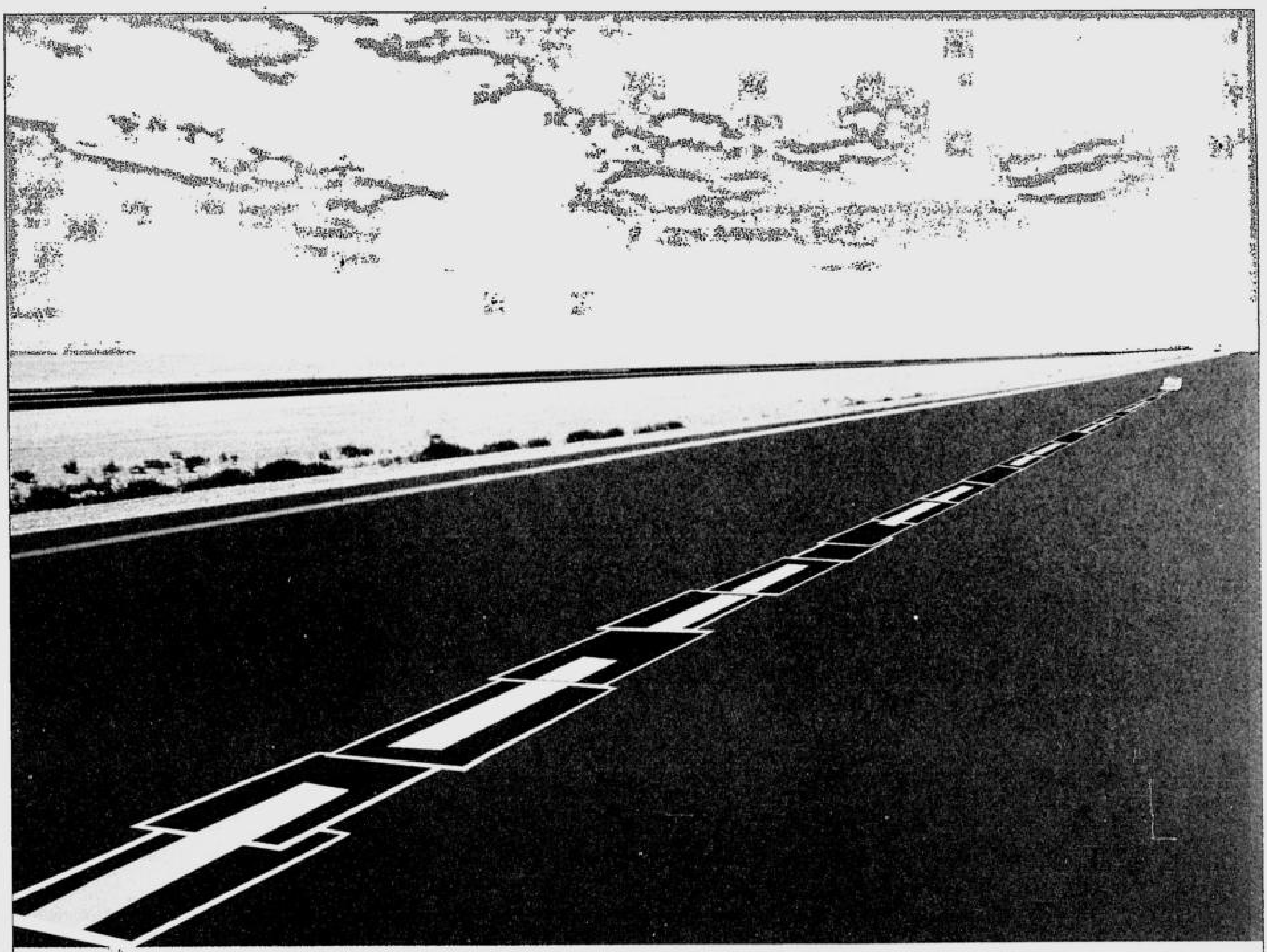

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LET US NOT PAY THE PPA!

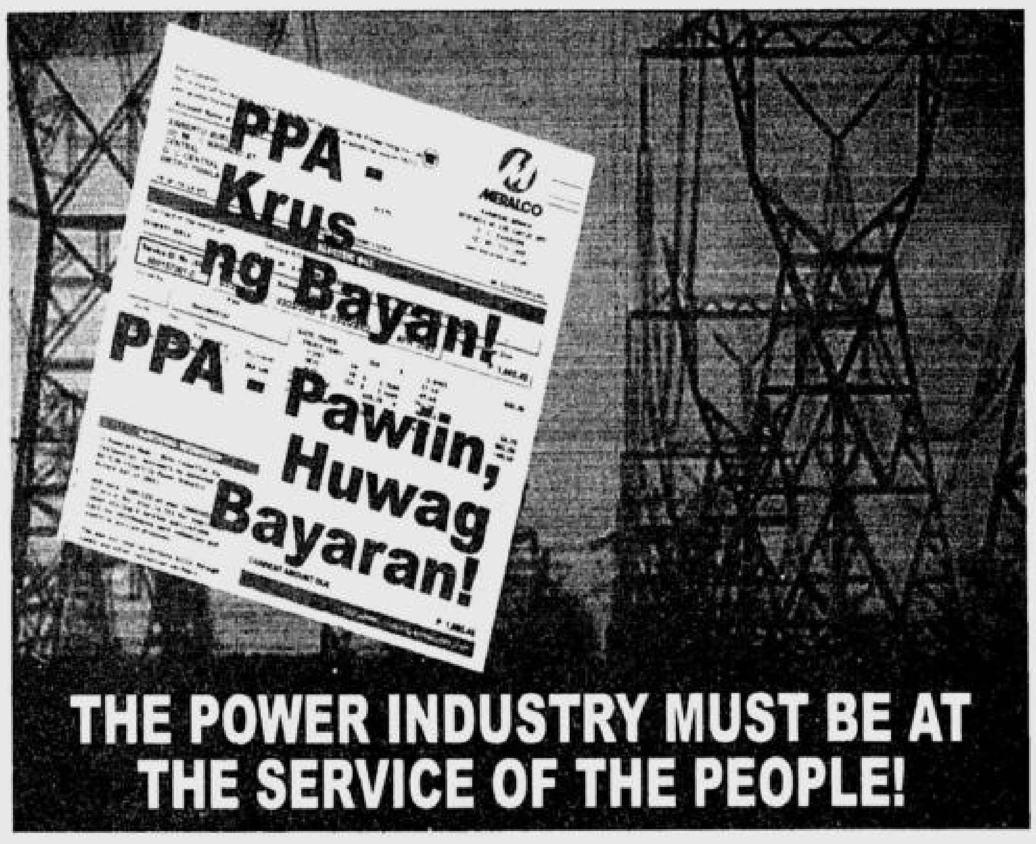
The power crisis has exploded today with the imposition of the unconscionable Purchased Power Adjustment (PPA) on every electric consumer. Gloria Macapagal Arroyo pressured Congress to pass Republic Act No. 9136 or the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (EPIRA), to cover up the mistakes and crimes of previous administrations in relation to the power industry by legalizing them. She deliberately misled the people into believing that EPIRA would make the power rates cheaper. In truth, its most unconscionable provision - the imposition of the abominable PPA - has become a public scourge. **Because of Mrs. Arroyo's EPIRA even the IPP contracts approved under previous administrations can be forced against the national government which would not have been the case had they been rescinded or renegotiated first before signing the EPIRA into law.**

The crisis in the power industry today began with former President Corazon Aquino's scrapping of the Department of Energy which was intended to synchronize the supply and demand of electricity in the country. Mrs. Aquino also mothballed the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant (BNPP), one of the cheapest sources of power, without thorough investigation of the whole project or serious study to look into other alternatives of cheap power. It was also Mrs. Aquino that signed into law Executive Order No. 215 creating the Independent Power Producers (IPP's) from the private sector that henceforth competed with Napocor and caused it tremendous losses. Mrs. Aquino then returned Meralco to its previous owners without making them pay despite the fact that both Meralco's generation and distribution facilities were earlier paid them by the government for about P1.2B. **Mrs. Aquino must now answer the Filipino people – why did she return Meralco without making the oligarchs of the power industry pay? What was the quid pro quo?**

Prior to its return to its previous owners, Meralco was owned by the government which set up the Meralco foundation from public funds and since Mrs. Corazon Aquino did not make them pay, logically Meralco should belong to the Filipino people today. Since we are the true owners of Meralco, the Kilusan Kontra sa Kalabisan ng PPA (KKK-PPA) now questions the imposition of the PPA against us, the Filipino people. At the same time because of the deceitful manner in which the PPA was foisted on the Filipino consumers through Mrs. Arroyo's EPIRA, **KKK-PPA declares the continued collection of PPA as illegal and immoral, oppressive and unjust.**

The Kilusan Kontra sa Kalabisan ng PPA (KKK-PPA) therefore calls on the Filipino people to band together with all of us and fight this onerous and oppressive PPA. **Let us not pay the PPA in our monthly electric bills! Let us not even be further fooled by current attempts of Malacañang and Congress to amend EPIRA. These are mere palliative efforts to prolong our collective agony. Instead let us review the entire EPIRA and IPPs and abolish those that do not harmonize with the interests of our people.** KKK-PPA enjoins all of us to stand up for our rights and demand the rectification of our history and a restoration of what truly belongs to us. **Meralco must be returned to us, the Filipino people. The power industry in the Philippines must be at the service of the Filipino people and not vice-versa.**

Ipinataw ang PPA dahil kay Gloria Macapagal Arroyo! Krus ng Bayan na PPA, PAWIIN AT HUWAG BAYARAN!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Guardians, Mindanao/Region 12

Arturo Maligaya
Guardians, Arizona, USA

Col. Virgilio Briones
Guardians, Luzon

Dr. Mashur Jundam
MNLF

Jojo Ablog
Bago at Responsableng Kabataan Para sa Demokratikong Layunin

Albert Padro
Movement for the Advancement of Justice and the Rule of Law

COL EDUARDO "RGF RED" KAPUNAN
Guardians, Visayas

Ali Al-Raschid
Zamboanga Peninsula People's Rehabilitation Center (ZaPP)

Vince Minase
Shekinah Haven, I/...

Isidro Villaflor
Samahang Magsasaka ng Nueva Ecija

Adriano, Jr. & Rebecca Icasas
South D, 5D, Couples for Christ

Dr. Francisco de Guzman
Graduate School, Far Eastern University

Edward Whitenley
Guardians, Hongkong

Atty. Rex Bilagot
Guardians, Region 1

ATTY PEDRO LESLIE "RMG PLS" SALVA
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ADVT.

Mayor urges GMA to intervene in Diwalwal

By Anthony S. Allada
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY—Mayor Rodrigo Duterte has urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to intervene and find a comprehensive solution to the 20-year-old dispute in the gold mines of Diwalwal in Monkayo, Compostela Valley.

Duterte said a "spectacle of trouble" happens in the small-scale gold mining site "almost daily."

Duterte, chair of the Regional Peace and Order Council, described the problem in Diwalwal as "greed abetting greed" and would require a "forceful presidential intervention" to avert violence.

He said hundreds of people have been killed in the area but most of these were not reported or properly investigated.

Franco Tito, Diwalwal barangay chair, said at least 80 persons were killed in the area between 1998 and 2001.

The number does not include persons buried in cave-ins or murdered in the early 1980s.

Tito said the killings happened inside the tunnels, at the base camps of the mining companies or at the commercial district and were mostly caused by disputes over ownership of tunnels.

He said what complicated the matter was the application of the Makati City-based Southeast Mindanao Gold Mining Corp. (SEM) over a 4,000-hectare mining concession under the government's Mineral Production Sharing Agreement program in Diwalwal and nearby areas.

In 1999, Davao Archbishop Fernando Capalla urged the government to tackle the problem in the area as part of its peace agenda, noting that the problem was a "social volcano."

That same year, then President Joseph Estrada intervened by banning mining in the area on the ground that these had been going on for years without permits from the government.

But Estrada later buckled down when the miners and mining operators, who supported his presidential bid, protested.

Estrada then organized a cabinet-level body called Task Force Diwa, to draft a comprehensive solution to the Diwalwal problem.

Ma. Luisa Jacinto, regional chief of the Mines and Geo-Sciences Bureau here, said Task Force Diwa's status was "hanging" as the Macapagal administration has neither reorganized nor scrapped it.

Jacinto said they supported Duterte's move because the solutions to the problems of Diwalwal were beyond the level of regional officials.

In March, mineworkers, backed by tunnel owners and small-scale miners, barricaded the Bincungan bridge along the Pan-Philippine Maharlika Highway in Carmen, Davao del Norte. They protested the order by Monkayo Mayor Jose Brillantes to owners of gold processing plants in Diwalwal to stop their operations.

Brillantes, himself a tunnel owner and a business partner of SEM, issued the order on the grounds that these are polluting the rivers and farmlands below the site.

The miners alleged that Brillantes issued the order to weaken the position of other mining firms in the area so he can have the mines for himself. Brillantes denied the allegations.

The standoff ended following a daylong negotiation facilitated by Interior Secretary Jose Lina Jr.

MACAPAGAL

Mindoro laborer electrocuted on 7th day of brownout

MAMBURAO, Occidental Mindoro—A laborer died on Saturday night when he was electrocuted while trying to switch on a generator to provide light for his father's wake on the seventh day of brownout that had left the entire Mindoro islands in darkness.

Melchor Macasunod, 29, was immediately rushed to the Occidental Mindoro Provincial Hospital but was pronounced dead on arrival by the attending physician.

Macasunod's main arteries had burst, Dr. Rodolfo Fernandez said.

According to his neighbors who witnessed the incident, Macasunod decided to borrow a power generator to light up the wake of his father, who died from heart attack, when the power in their area went on and off.

Baby Bico, 35, a tuna trader whom the victim worked for, said when Macasunod was holding the base of the generator and was ready to switch it on, the power in the area was suddenly restored. The sudden surge of power electrocuted him.

Instead of just one coffin, there are now two in the wake at the Macasunod household in Barangay 7, this town.

Residents blamed the frequent brownout for Macasunod's death.

The brownout started on May 26 due to the shutdown of the 102-megavolt (MV) power barge in Calapan City in Oriental Mindoro when the 42 MV transformer in the area had a short circuit.

The standby generator in Barangay Tayamaan, Mamburao, has no capacity to light up the entire area composed of Mamburao, Paluan, Sta. Cruz, and Abra de Ilog towns.

Power in Occidental and Oriental Mindoro comes from two power barges in Calapan City and transmitted to Mamburao through a 70-kilometer transmission line.

When the power goes off, the National Power Corp. office in Barangay Tayamaan, which has an insufficient power supply resorts to restoring the power on a block-by-block basis, lighting some barangays, while shutting off the others. ***Mei Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

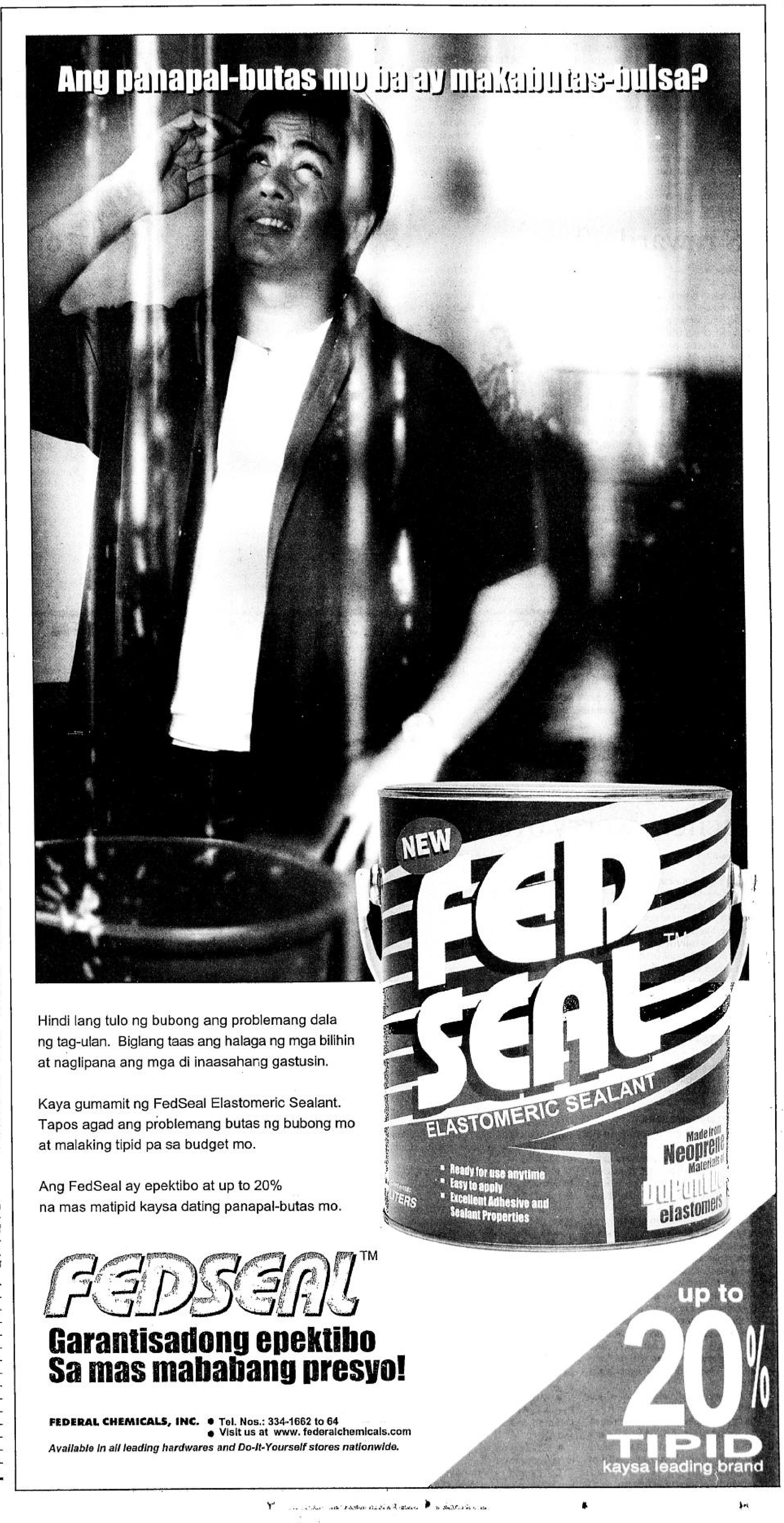
WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Luzon will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming widespread rains over the Western sections of Northern and Central Luzon. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with rains.

source: **pagasa**

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	HI31° Lo 24°
Baguio	Rains	HI 20° Lo 13°
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 23°
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 23°
Clark Zone	Rains	HI 30° Lo 23°
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	HI 29° Lo 21°
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 25°
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 23°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 24°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 25°
Cebu	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 24°
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy with Rains	HI 33° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy with Rains	HI 33° Lo 24°
Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 24°
Davao	Partly Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyosa, PDI Research/06/03/02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More active US role, extended stay seen

From page A1

church and a nearby hospital from June 1 to 2 last year, dragging with them hostages they had kidnapped from Palawan's Dos Palmas resort, including missionaries Gracia and Martin Burnham of Wichita, Kansas, and Guillermo Sobero of Corona, California.

The bandits later beheaded Sobero. They are still holding captive the Burnhams and Ediborah Yap, a Lamitan nurse.

"We are uneasy with the thought that the Americans who are giving us moral and civic support will be leaving after their stay of six months," the petition said.

"We are insecure with the thought that their absence will bring us back to (square) one. Please, Madame President, prolong the Americans' stay with us," it added.

About 1,000 US troops are in the country for the Balikatan exercises. About half of them are in Basilan, an Abu Sayyaf stronghold.

Other troops are providing transportation, engineering and other logistics support for the exercise. The United States has also supplied the Philippine military with arms and other equipment.

Before flying to Manila, Wolfowitz said in Singapore that American troops were likely to remain in the Philippines to continue helping the Philippine military in its battle against the Moro bandits.

Such an extension would have to be approved by the Philippine government, which has expressed desire for a longer stay of US troops. The Macapagal administration, however, faces criticism from leftist and nationalist groups who say the US presence violates Philippine sovereignty.

Arrival in Manila

Wolfowitz arrived in Manila aboard a private plane. He was met by US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone and top Philippine diplomats and defense officials.

He was expected at the presidential palace later Sunday for a dinner with Ms Macapagal, a staunch supporter of the US-led global war on terrorism.

On Monday, Wolfowitz is to meet with Philippine Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes before flying to Zamboanga City, the commmand center for the RP-US exercises.

Wolfowitz did not talk to the media on his arrival, but during a visit to Singapore on Saturday, he told Reuters that he would look into what else the United States could do to help the Philippines.

"In the Philippines, a major objective of my stop is to get a first-hand look at what our people are doing down in Mindanao and report back to (Defense) Secretary (Donald) Rumsfield, to give him advice as he considers options for the next phase of our work there," Wolfowitz said.

"That work is aimed at giving the Filipinos the capability to deal with their own problems. They are quite emphatic that that's what they want to do, but they are quite willing to take help in getting there."

Golez said Wolfowitz was expected to discuss with Ms Macapagal a proposal for US military advisers to move closer to areas where Filipino soldiers were operating to make the training "more realistic."

Golez said the 160 Green Berets in Basilan were already through with training local troops at the battalion level. Hence, the need for US advisers to move down to the level of the company, the basic fighting unit of the Philippine military.

"When you fight a group like the Abu Sayyaf, the biggest group (you should deploy) is the company," he explained.

Golez said Manila and Washington "might reach a decision, but it will be announced at the proper time."

He said there was no need to amend the terms of references of the Balikatan exercises.

Disagreement

But Brig. Gen. Emmanuel Teodosio, the Filipino co-director of the exercises, said that unless the rules were amended, US troops would have to stay on the sidelines. Existing rules prohibit US troops from engaging the Abu Sayyaf in combat.

Teodosio said that even if the rules were amended, American troops would still be disallowed from mounting independent operations against the Abu Sayyaf.

During a Mass guarded by American and Filipino troops in Lamitan, Fr. Cirilo Nacorda prayed for peace and the hostages' freedom.

Another priest, Rene Enriquez, wept while celebrating Mass earlier in the same church, which was heavily damaged by gunfire, grenades and helicopter rocket blasts when government troops retook it and the nearby 21-bed hospital from the bandits in June last year.

Enriquez remembered Gracia Burnham telling him "to pray for us" before the bandits successfully escaped with their American and local captives.

Some residents have accused military officers of allowing the bandits to flee safely in exchange for bribes.

"We still feel threatened," said Socorro Espiritu, a homemaker who lives in Balobo, a poor Lamitan farming village where the bandits beheaded 10 men during a rampage last Aug. 2.

"There are many who testified against the rebels for that attack and they could return anytime to silence those who're willing to talk," Espiritu said.

In a shanty owned by Yap, the nurse still held by the bandits with the Burnhams, one of her sons painted a wall and a bench on Sunday, preparing for her possible homecoming amid news she would be freed by the bandits soon. ***With reports from AP, AFP and Reuters***

US reward offer . . .

From page A1

moves closer to their July 31 deadline.

The reward also sends the message that the Philippine government's offer of reward (P1 million a head) for the capture of Abu Sayyaf leaders has proved unproductive. The reward is probably too little and not because the Abu Sayyaf terrorists are above greed or treachery.

The reward may be seen as one of the weapons in the US repertoire to combat terrorism. It has been resorted to because under the terms of reference (TOR) of the Balikatan exercises, US troops are prohibited from engaging in combat with terrorists except in "self-defense" when fired upon.

According to the US Embassy statement, the initiative carried out under Washington's "Rewards for Justice" program has resulted in preventing acts of terrorism and in the conviction of terrorists in other countries. It cited Ramzi Yousef, the terrorist who bombed the World Trade Center in New York in 1993.

Yousef, whose later terrorist plots were foiled by Philippine authorities, was captured in Pakistan because of information provided through the rewards program. He has been convicted and is serving a life sentence.

Nothing new

In announcing the reward, the US government is using a method that is nothing new in the history of warfare.

Rewards work on the bottomless capacity of the human race for treachery and greed, and this approach has proved to be effective in the betrayal and capture of enemies.

Deployed against the Abu Sayyaf, the reward may yet prove to be more effective in decimating its leadership than the Balikatan exercises themselves, which have seen the introduction of advanced hi-tech weapons in the training of Filipino troops.

The US Embassy has already reported receiving a swelling tide of information in response to its announcement.

If the idea of the rewards is to produce results, then it may be argued that the question of giving the DFA short notice may just be a secondary issue.

The other point is that it is American money—not Filipino money—being spent anyway.

With the buildup of expectations that the Balikatan exercises were primarily intended to wipe out the Abu Sayyaf pockets in the Basilan jungle, the issue over coordination might appear to be another case of quibbling over sovereignty issues.

Implications

But DFA officials do not see coordination or advance notice a minor issue because the reward offer has important implications.

The officials are concerned over several issues.

First, if the information leads to arrest, who will make the arrest? It is not clear whether Filipino authorities or the American military would do this.

Secondly, Washington could ask for the extradition of arrested Abu Sayyaf leaders for trial in the United States, since they are being held responsible for terrorist acts, including the abduction of American citizens, the Burnham couple. This involves jurisdictional issues that have to be addressed to avoid controversies in the former RP-US Military Bases Agreement, like those that plagued US soldiers who had committed off-base criminal offenses against Filipinos.

The US government appears to have become impatient over the restrictions on the engagement of its forces in the fight against the Abu Sayyaf.

At present, the US trainers are tied down at headquarters. They are training Filipino troops on battalion level and are forbidden by the Balikatan terms of references in joining Filipino troops in patrols.

A sign that the United States is unhappy with such a restriction is that Adm. Thomas Fargo, chief of the US Pacific Command, has recommended that US Special Forces troops be allowed to go with Filipino patrols in the operations against the Abu Sayyaf and give them on-the-spot training.

Wolfowitz

This week, US Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz is coming to Manila to assess the progress of the anti-terrorism campaign, and he is expected to bring up Fargo's recommendations with Philippine officials.

Ambassador Ricciardone has assured Filipino officials that the Balikatan exercises will end in July.

We have information that the Philippine military is launching a big push to attack Abu Sayyaf strongholds to show results before the July deadline.

The reward offer may be seen as a step toward this offensive. If the Abu Sayyaf is routed, all these questions of prior consultation and even direct US engagement in combat (which is favored by the military establishment and in high administration circles, except Guingona) will become moot.

Pasay cops . . .

From page A1

An autopsy conducted by police and Rizal Funeral Homes showed that the victim, Dexter Balala, had five bullet wounds. He also suffered 13 stab wounds inflicted by the hostage-taker, Diomedes Talvo of San Mateo, Isabela.

Balala was seized at knifepoint by Talvo inside the Philtranco bus terminal on Apelo Street in Malibay, Pasay, early Friday.

After a two-hour standoff with police, Talvo began stabbing the boy, prompting the lawmen to open fire, resulting in the death of both Talvo and Balala.

The Philippine National Police has conducted ballistics tests on 25 firearms and 19 policemen for powder burns to determine who among them fired the shots that killed Balala.

Results of the tests will be out this week, Chief Supt. Jose Gutierrez, Southern Police District head, said.

"I've requested those in the crime lab to work overtime over the weekend," Gutierrez said in a telephone interview.

Nine long firearms and 16 short ones had been tested, according to Gutierrez. The weapons include those of Senior Supt. Eduardo de la Cerna, Pasay police chief.

The bungled rescue attempt prompted Interior Secretary Joey Lina to conclude that the policemen, especially members of the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT), needed to undergo a refresher course.

"Based on the video footage, the killing of the hostage-taker and the boy could have been prevented if our officers have acted accordingly and with efficiency," he said in a press statement.

Lina said he wanted to know if the officers strictly followed the rules of engagement and if there was indeed negligence and lapses on the part of the officers.

He said he expected the investigation to be wrapped up in two weeks.

De la Cerna was relieved on Friday by Deputy Director General Edgardo Aglipay, chief of the National Capital Region Police Office.

But Aglipay himself was the object of criticism. Some sectors are urging that he be relieved as part of the principle of "command responsibility."

The National Police Commission is set to start summary dismissal proceedings against the policemen, according to Rogelio Pureza, Napolcom vice chair and executive director.

Police authorities have recommended the filing of administrative and criminal cases against 10 policemen, De la Cerna and two other officials of the Pasay police.

Relatives of Talvo welcomed the filing of the charges.

"We hope that the policemen will pay for their recklessness. My husband was also a victim here," said Lydia Ganotice, 35, Talvo's common-law wife.

Talvo's remains were brought to their house in Barangay Villa Cruz in San Mateo, Isabela, on Saturday night.

Barangay chair Romulo Ramirez and councilmen Cecilio Ramones and Carlito del Rosario retrieved the body from a funeral parlor in Pasay after intense questioning from policemen.

"We were finally allowed to bring the body home after a very stringent process. *Para kaming dumaan sa butas ng karayom* (It was like passing through a needle's eye)," Ramirez, Talvo's cousin, said.

Teachers worry over 'millennium curriculum'

From page A1

will be given an hour each in every seven-hour school day. Makabayan will be given three hours daily.

Under the "team teach" approach, teachers of Makabayan are supposed to "plan together interdisciplinary lessons or integrated units of learning tasks." This will take up more time, of course. They will also spend more time doing the lesson plans for the new curriculum.

"Makabayan teachers sometimes teach together when it is possible and appropriate, and at other times they teach separately," a DepEd primer on the BEC said.

That is because their subjects under Makabayan are considered one learning area and will just have one "grade" every grading period.

Demoralized

"Who will do the integration of the grades?" asked Ms Y, who along with other values education teachers in her school are "demoralized and depressed."

They feel that the importance of the subject they are teaching is being diminished.

Some values education teachers fear that the subject they have specialized in will be scrapped as the millennium curriculum progresses.

Ms Y feels that values education teachers will be treated as "excess teachers," who are either going to be retrained for other subjects or are going to be laid off.

On the elementary level, in fact, there will be no separate values education or "good morals and right conduct" class. Instead, values education will be "integrated" with every subject or every learning area.

On the secondary level, values education will have the lowest credit unit.

The DepEd explains that values education is not being diminished in value and is in fact being enhanced as it will be integrated with every subject and key learning area.

"Values development is integral to all the learning areas from the elementary to the secondary levels," it said.

"Every teacher of the 2002 curriculum is a values educator; she/he can identify and put in context the values inherent in her/his discipline, and serves as a role model for the learner."

This is well and good in concept, according to Ms Y. But in practice, integrating values with every subject is a difficult feat that requires more training.

Under the BEC, Makabayan will have the following component subjects to be integrated with each other:

Elementary

- Social Studies or Araling Panlipunan, which is offered as Sibika at Kultura (Civics and Culture) for Grades 1, 2 and 3, and Heographiya, Kasaysayan at Sibika (Geography, History and Civics) for Grades 4, 5 and 6.
- Edukasyong Pantahanan at Pangkabuhayan (EPP) or Home Economics and Livelihood Education for Grades 4, 5 and 6.
- Musika, Sining at Edukasyong Pangkatawan (MSEP) or Music, Arts and Physical Education for Grades 4, 5 and 6 (For Grades 1, 2 and 3, MSEP is integrated with Sibika at Kultura).
- Good Manners and Right Conduct, which is integrated with all learning areas.

High School

- Social Studies or Araling Panlipunan, which includes Philippine History and Government for 1st Year, Asian Studies for 2nd Year, World History for 3rd Year, and Economics for 4th Year.
- Teknolohiya at Edukasyong Pantahanan at Pangkabuhayan (TEPP) or Technology and Home Economics.
- Musika, Sining at Edukasyong Pangkatawan at Pangkalusugan (MSEPP) or Physical Education, Health and Music.
- Edukasyon sa Pagpapahalaga or values education.

The DepEd says the old curriculum had become too overcrowded; thus, the need to reduce the learning areas from eight to just five and "decongest" the curriculum to make it easier for teachers and learners to "contextualize" it.

In the computation of grades in high school, values education will have a unit credit of 0.4. The other Makabayan subjects will have a combined credit unit of 3.6—Social Studies or Araling Panlipunan, 1.2; Technology and Home Economics, 1.2; and Music, Arts, PE and Health, also 1.2.

In all, Makabayan will have a unit credit of 4.

Each Makabayan subject, except for values education, will be taught for one hour daily for four days a week, or a total of 240 minutes a week. Filipino, English and Science will have 1.5 unit credits each and will be taught an hour a day, four days a week.

The unit credit indicates the number of units assigned to a learning area computed on a 40-minute per unit credit basis.

Promotion

The unit credit shall be used to evaluate a student's promotion to the next year level, according to the DepEd.

"A student who fails in two units or less is promoted to the next year level. On the other hand, a student, who fails in more than two units, is retained in the year level," the department's primer said.

"Under this circumstance, the student will only be required to repeat the subjects that he/she failed and should be given advanced subjects in the next curriculum level."

That presents another problem for teachers of Makabayan, Ms Y said. "What if a student fails in one Makabayan subject? Does he still pass Makabayan?"

How values education will be integrated with English, Filipino, Science and Mathematics is a matter of concern for values education teachers.

Laboratory of life

Makabayan poses a more pressing problem. Seemingly unrelated subjects such as values education, Social Studies, Music, Culture and the Arts, PE, Health, Home Economics and Livelihood are combined in what the DepEd calls the "laboratory of life" learning area.

The department also calls the combination a "practice environment for holistic learning to develop a healthy personal and national self-identity."

For teachers covered by the Makabayan subjects, the description "laboratory of life" is fitting. They feel that they, their subjects and their students are being experimented on, and being rushed headlong into a program that they feel still needs time to prepare for and to understand.

Attending the five-day training program did not help teachers understand the concept of integration. The trainors themselves seemed at a loss, commented teachers who requested anonymity.

Ms Y and the other teachers feel harassed and ill-prepared for the next school opening despite the training. "After the seminar, we were not enlightened. *Masyadong paspasan* (It was done in haste)," she said.

The trainors asked them to prepare on how she and the other teachers in Social Studies, Music, Culture and Arts, Physical Education, Technology and Home Economics would teach using integration.

The teachers were lauded by their trainors when their group, representing high school senior teachers, presented a "thematic teaching" approach on their respective subjects around the idea of the "environment."

Asked what the right and wrong way of "integration" was, the trainors said there was no wrong or right way of doing it.

"*Wala daw tama, wala daw mali. Basta importante, may* integration (They said there was no right or wrong. What's important is there's integration)," Ms Y said.

That comment has left her and the other teachers more confused than ever, she said.

The DepEd has not even provided those who will teach elementary and high school students come June 17 with any "prototype lesson plan" under the new BEC.

No lesson plan

A trainor from the department's central office, who took part in the training program for DepEd regional directors in Baguio City, said this was something the DepEd should have prepared for. Provision of prototype lesson plans was part of the preparations for the program.

"Without the prototype lesson plan, teachers will be left in the dark," the trainor said.

"At least the teachers will have a blueprint, a guide on how to teach their subjects using this integration approach. Not all teachers could be creative and expected to immediately understand and apply the concept of integration," he said.

A prototype lesson plan should have been provided for even for just the first grading period, according to him.

Teachers are not expected to immediately understand the process of integrating values in the different subject areas, or integrating differing subjects—such as those under Makabayan—with one another.

This school year, the same textbooks used last year will still be used. The prototype lesson plans will guide teachers in the new integrative approach of teaching subjects under the millennium curriculum.

Ms Y already feels the burden. "We are being asked to think about this new lesson plan. Our heads are aching already," she said.

She said she and other teachers had yet to receive the handouts promised them.

She admits that the concept of integration is good, but that the training has not properly prepared her for a year of hands-on integration.

"This is the first time that we will do this and we are worried. We don't want to let our students down," she said.

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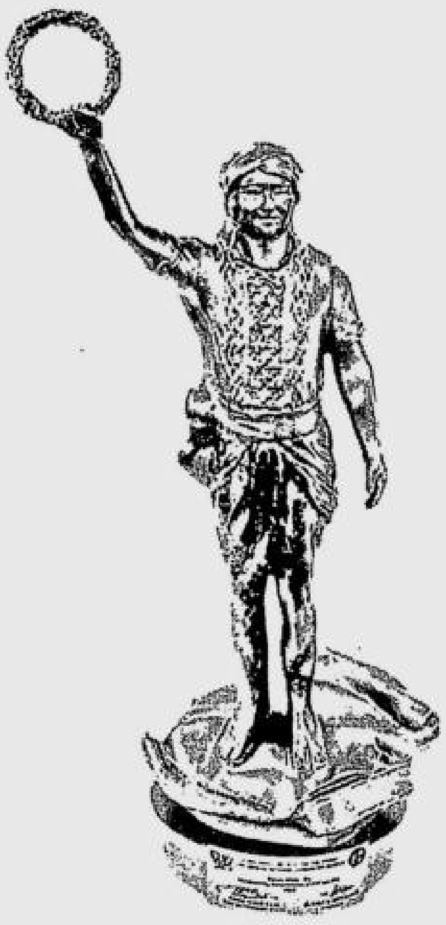
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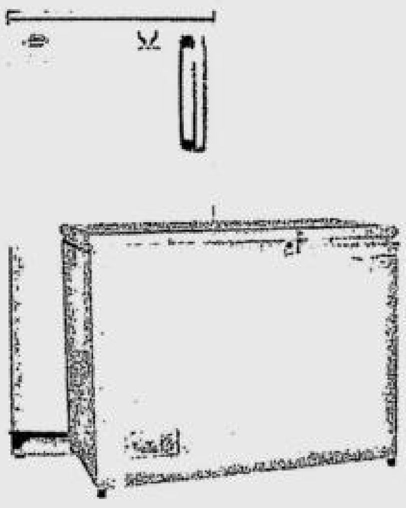
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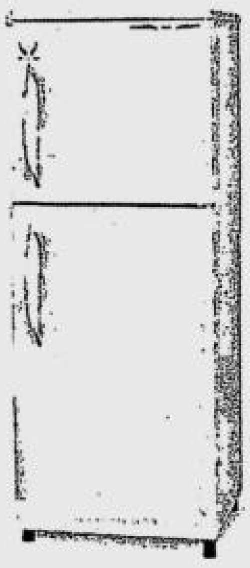
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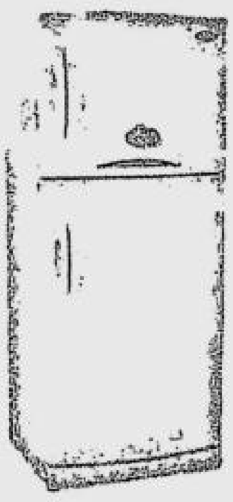
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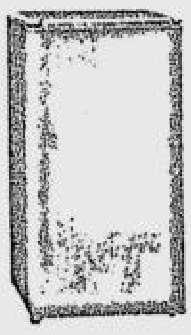
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SPORTS

Editor Al S. Mendoza ◎ *Assistant Editor* Edwin M. Villanueva

SPORTS ON TV **Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat**

BASKETBALL: NBA Playoffs Conference Finals, LA Lakers vs Sacramento, Game 7 at 8 a.m. on ESPN
2002 ABC Champions Cup Semifinal #1 at 12 noon (r) on Star Sports
SOCCER:: World Cup Today at 11:30 a.m. and 11:30 p.m. (r) on Star Sports
World Cup 2002—Italy vs Ecuador at 7:30 p.m. on Dream 42

WORLD CUP

Argentines squeak past Nigerians

YOKOHAMA, Japan—Argentina did what defending champion France and Ireland couldn't manage in their World Cup openers—beat an African team.

Then Paraguay tried, going ahead 2-0, but ended with a 2-2 draw when South Africa's Quinton Fortune sent a penalty shot high into the corner of the net in the last minute.

The Argentines, heavily favored to win their third World Cup, dominated play in their 1-0 victory over Nigeria Sunday. But goalkeeper Ike Shorunmu conceded only one goal, Gabriel Batistuta's angled header in the 63rd minute off Juan Sebastien Veron's corner.

Argentina was firmly atop Group F after the "Group of Death's" other two teams—England and Sweden—played to a 1-1 draw.

For Paraguay, Roque Santa Cruz headed in Francisco Arce's free kick in the 39th minute and Arce scored directly on a 25-meter (yard) free kick in the 56th.

Six minutes later, an own goal narrowed the gap. Paraguay's Estanislao Struway deflected in a shot by South Africa's Teboho Mokoena. Then Paraguay goalie Ricardo Tavarelli brought down Sibusiso Zuma, setting up Fortune's penalty kick.

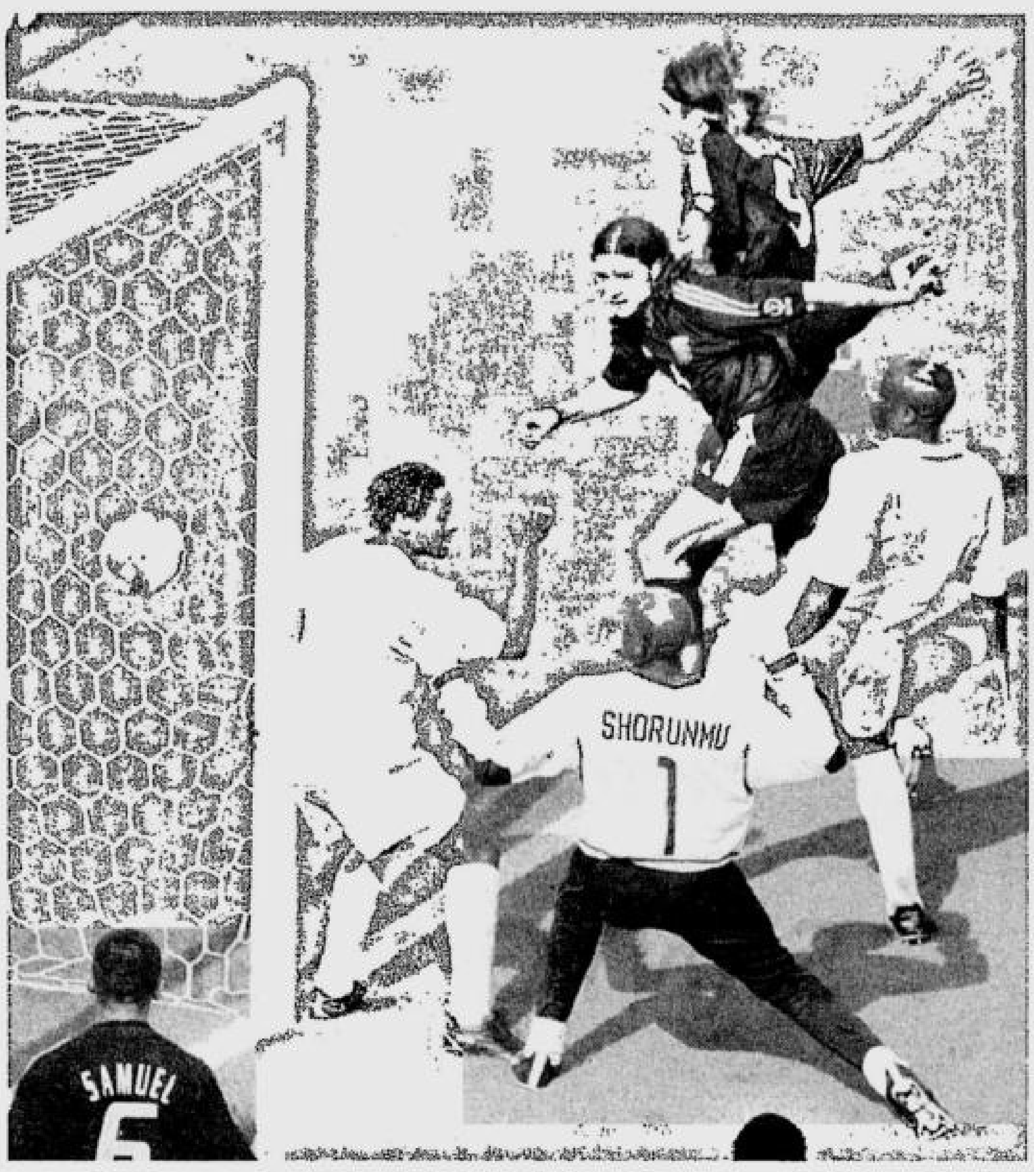
England remained without a victory over Sweden in 34 years. England Captain David Beckham, back in action after a broken left foot, sent a corner that Sol Campbell headed home in the 24th minute. But defender Danny Mills blindly played away a ball that Sweden's Niclas Alexandersson drove in from 20 meters to make it 1-1 in the 59th.

In the next seven minutes, England goalkeeper David Seaman stopped Teddy Lucic twice and Tobias Linderoth once.

Africans started this tournament sensationally when Senegal upset France 1-0 on opening day Friday. African champion Cameroon drew 1-1 with Ireland on Saturday.

Argentina had its own reasons to worry. In 1990, when they were defending champions, Cameroon beat the Argentines, 1-0, in the World Cup opener. Nigeria also edged them for the Olympic gold medal in 1996.

Three-time champion Germany routed Saudi Arabia, 8-0, on Saturday night behind the three goals of Miroslav Klose. *AP*



ARGENTINA'S Gabriel Bautista (top) heads the ball to score a goal amidst Nigerian defenders during their Group F match at the World Cup Finals in Ibaraki, Japan. Argentina won, 1-0. REUTERS

Xavier, Ateneo booters prevail

XAVIER and Ateneo scored three victories each Saturday to grab the early lead in the Puma Football Festival at the Glorietta Activity Center in Makati city.

Xavier beat Masbate, 8-6, Camarines SV, 13-3 and Mendiola, 13-4, while Ateneo toppled Baguio, 12-1, Laguna, 9-2, and La Salle Greenhills, 5-2. Cagayan de Oro-Misamis Oriental Football Association (CMOFA) also swept its two assignments, winning 10-8 over Camarines Vinzons and 10-6 over Rizal-Taytay.

Fourteen under-15 teams from all over the country are vying in the street soccer tourney organized by global sports marketing company IMG, presented by Puma and supported by Burlington, National Sports Grill, Planet Sports, The Athlete's Foot, Puma, Eyewear, Tokyo Tokyo and 103.5 Klite.

Lakers, Kings do-or-die

LOS ANGELES—Try relying on two players against six.

Or seven.

The odds shouldn't be in your favor.

But if Shaquille O'Neal and Kobe Bryant are the two, that's a heck of a pair to draw from.

O'Neal and Bryant have carried the offensive load most successfully for Los Angeles since Phil Jackson became the team's coach before the 1999-00 season, leading the Lakers to a pair of championships.

Now, as the Lakers go for a three-peat, the reliance on O'Neal and Bryant has never been greater, begging an obvious question:

Can the Lakers beat the more balanced Sacramento Kings one more time in hostile territory without more scoring from the supporting cast?

The Lakers think so, although several believe it's going to be different story Sunday.

"Any time they've each scored 30 points, it's rare if we lose," Robert Horry said of O'Neal and Bryant before the Lakers practiced Saturday at their headquarters in nearby El Segundo.

"Shaq and Kobe have predominantly carried the load for us," Rick Fox acknowledged. "Will (the Kings) leave the other guys open? I think the approach last night was to limit the supporting cast."

If that was the strategy, it worked. But it didn't result in a Sacramento victory.

O'Neal scored 41 points, Bryant added 31 and their teammates combined for 34 as the Lakers beat the Kings, 106-102, on Friday night at Staples Center to set up a seventh and deciding game Sunday at Arco Arena.

The winner will host the Eastern Conference-winning New Jersey Nets on Wednesday night to open the NBA Finals.

"When Shaq is going good like he was last night, you have to keep on giving him the ball," Brian Shaw said. "We just have to take advantage of our opportunities when they're there. *AP*

Palaro opens today; GMA main guest

By Marc Anthony Reyes

NAGA CITY — This city could have prepared better and even earned bigger staging the controversy-plagued 2002 Palarong Pambansa which opens today at the newly refurbished Metro Naga Sports Complex.

But Mayor Jesse Robredo vowed to set aside all the could-have-beens and get on with the Games which was scrapped for the past two years and almost didn't push through this year due to a myriad of reasons.

"This could have been a lot better," Robredo told the INQUIRER on the eve of the Games which will have President Arroyo declaring the games open. "But we have to push through with this because our pride is at stake here."

The mayor admitted that preparations, which have been in full throttle since February, "slowed down" when the Department of Education decided to scrap this year's Palaro and the city incurred at least P1 million in lost earnings after sponsors backed out.

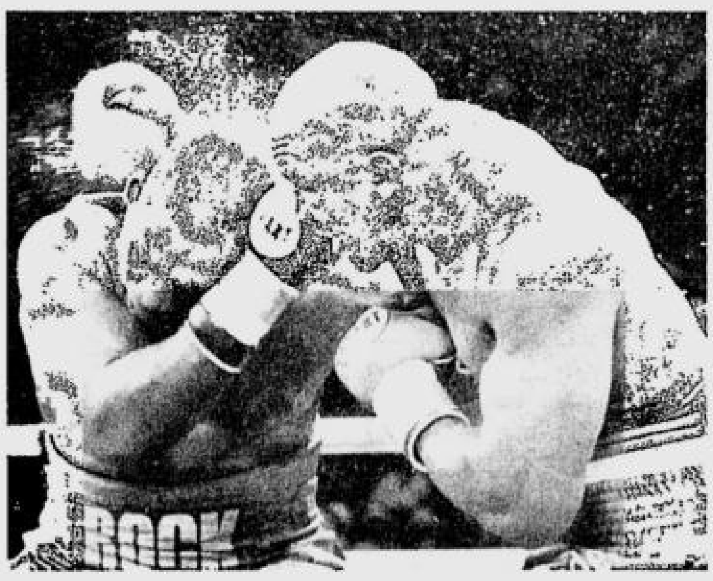
But since Ms Arroyo has ruled in favor of pushing through with the Games, Robredo said he has no regrets over spending close to P10 million in repairing the sports complex and other competition venues.

"Politicians have helped us come up with funds and I think the developments we made will pay off in the long run because whether the Palaro pushed through or not, we would have made this improvements anyway," said Robredo.

The mayor added that Education Secretary Raul Roco gave him the blessings after President Arroyo overruled him and even allocated P5 million to the city for the Games, which will feature 5,500 elementary and high school students who are 13 years old and above.

ACE DRIVER

Ivan Santiago of Access Plus-Malossi shows his winning form during the expert open race in the third leg of the Shell Advance Super Scooter Championships at the Carmona Racing Circuit in Carmona, Cavite, recently.



STILL IN-FORM

Evander Holyfield (right) lands a punch to the head of Hasim Rahman during their heavyweight bout Saturday in Atlantic City, N.J. Holyfield won by technical decision after a headbutt caused a large swelling on Rahman's head in the eighth round. AP

Aussies rule triathlon

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—Malcolm Lyons and Melissa Ashton asserted Australia's superiority as they posted a double in contrasting fashion yesterday in the rain-soaked 9th Subic Bay International Triathlon (SUBIT) where 208 triathletes from nine countries saw action.

Lyons, expecting to land in the top 25 in the world on his only 4th year in the triathlon circle, had to ward off the strong challenge of Japan's Ryosuke Ramamoto en route to his ascent to the throne vacated by back-to-back winner Daniel Lee Wo of Hong Kong.

Ashton, ranked No. 11 female in the world and No. 3 in Australia, triumphed with ease. She came out of the water with a one minute and nine seconds edge and stretched it as she raced against the clock.

Lyons and Ashton, both law student at University of Technology-Sydney, clocked 1 hour 53 minutes and 29 seconds and 2:03:34, respectively, in this ITU Point race and Asia Cup event sponsored by Speedo, Enervon, Philippine Sports Commission, Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, Gerry's Hill, Nestle Power Bar, Hotel La Corona, Asia Pacific Insulation, Velocity Bike and POC.

50 teams vie for honors in Orchard golf June 8

FIFTY teams will dispute top honors in the three divisions in the 2002 Chairman's Cup, a scramble team tournament of the Orchard Golf and Country Club in Dasmariñas, Cavite, on Saturday, June 8.

To be contested in the 18-hole event held in honor of club chair Conrad Benitez are the mixed team (two male and a female member or dependent) and the men's team (three male members or dependents).

Sta. Lucia Realty, Cebu Pacific, PRGR and Taylor Made Adidas are the tournament sponsors.

Awards to be given away are the team low gross, team low net, division team champion and division team runner-up. Teams will be classified according to their average team weighted handicap, only 50 percent of which shall be used.

Aside from the usual scramble rules, Orchard club manager Tom Clemente announced additional rules that will make the chase for the top prizes more exciting. A tee-shot of a team member, he said, can only be chosen six times during the round aside from players not being allowed to putt out and teams allowed to start even if they lack one player.

"This is actually a fun tournament for our members and dependents where the team concept is put into focus," said Clemente.

The Chairman's Cup at the Player course is the second major event in the Orchard calendar after the club's member-guest invitational dubbed as the Founder's Cup.

Depth spells big difference for Slashers

IN THE end, the RCPI Negros Slashers' depth spelled the difference in their MBA First Conference title series with the LBC Batangas Blades.

The Slashers have 10 dependable players, the Blades barely have eight. It was easy for RCPI Negros Coach to spot the mismatches and exploit the match-ups. Especially at the backcourt and the shaded lane where the Blades were vulnerable.

The Slashers have crack point guards Dennis Madrid and Dino Aldeguer; the Blades only have Tonyboy Espinosa.

The Slashers have certified star John Ferriols and Reynel Hugnatan to man the boards; the Blades have to make do with Chris Corbin and Ariel de Castro.

In Game 1, Madrid led the Slashers past the Blades, 89-80, at the University of St. La Salle Coliseum in Bacolod City.

It was Aldeguer's turn to shine in Game 2 as the Slashers repeated with a 75-68 victory at the same venue.

The Blades were hoping to extend the series in Game 3, but Hugnatan and Ferriols spoiled their plans. Hugnatan and Ferriols combined for 44 points and ruled the boards to cut short the best-of-five series at the Lipa Youth and Cultural Center, 87-82.

Finally, the Slashers were champs after three fruitless attempts.

It took a new coach, Joshua Villapando, and the addition of six new players to fulfill the dream of the Negrenses of seeing their team reign not only in the Southern Conference, but also against the Northern Conference squads.

"I cannot express my joy. It just felt good," said Slashers Coach Joshua Villapando. "The team is easy to handle. They are all coachable."

Stags Fr. Martin champ

SAN Sebastian College's spirited Stags leaned on the free throw of Leo Najorda in the last three seconds to nip last year's champion FEU Tamaraws, 77-76, and bag the 8th Fr. Martin Cup senior basketball crown last Saturday at the FEU gym. Earlier, the San Beda Red Cubs beat the Ateneo Eaglets, 80-71, to win the junior title and complete a sweep by NCAA teams over their UAAP rivals.

Homecourt edge

NBA NOTES

Henry Liao

TODAY (Manila time, 7:30 a.m.), the two-time defending NBA champion LA Lakers travel to Sacramento to face the gritty Kings in the decisive Game 7 of the Western final series at the Arco Arena.

Sacramento, which owned the best record in the NBA during the regular wars, has the homecourt advantage. But the Kings are far from invincible at home in the playoffs, dropping a game in each of their first three series, including Game 1 against the Lakers.

The Lakers, who lost Games 2, 3 and 5 and were lucky to capture Game 4 on Robert Horry's three-pointer at the buzzer, have championship experience and the league's top two players in Shaquille O'Neal and Kobe Bryant.

Nonetheless, Lakers coach Phil Jackson still does not have the answer to the Mike Bibby riddle. The Kings playmakers has been getting his way against his Lakers counterpart Derek Fisher, who has struggled offensively throughout the series and could not keep in pace with the cat-quick Bibby. Bibby has shot extremely well from the outside off screens set up by All-Star forward Chris Webber that often kept Fisher at bay defensively. Worse, Fisher, a three-point artist, could not even throw the ball into the ocean on the other end.

The Lakers have to find a way to stop Bibby. Neither Fisher nor Lindsey Hunter is quick enough. Jackson tried the taller Bryant at some point in Game 4 with limited success. Yet Bryant can't do that on full-time basis as it would tire him out on the offensive end. Perhaps another tall guard—like Brian Shaw—could slow down the 6-1 Bibby, whom the Kings acquired from Memphis last summer in exchange for the erratic Jason Williams.

La Salle seeks lead vs Kutitap

By Dennis U. Eroa

GAMES TODAY (Makati Coliseum)
3 p.m.—Shark vs Blu Sun Power
5.p.m.—Kutitap vs ICTSI-La Salle

ICTSI-LA SALLE seeks the solo lead as it meets unpredictable Kutitap Toothpaste even as sister teams Blu Sun Power and Kutitap collide today in the PBL Chairman's Cup semifinals at the Makati Coliseum.

Kutitap owns the distinction of beating ICTSI-La Salle, 55-48, at the start of the semis. La Salle played without ace playmaker Mike Cortez during that loss.

With Cortez back in their fold, the Green Archers have bounced back mightily, winning their last three games, including a thrilling 78-73 victory over the Ateneo Blue Eagles on Friday.

La Salle and Ateneo share the lead with 10-5 slates. The La Salle-Kutitap game is set at 5 p.m., after the 3 p.m. clash between Shark and Blu Sun Power.

Aside from Cortez, La Salle is getting fiery plays from Francis Zamora, Willy Wilson, Bernson Franco and James Yap.

Barnachea tops Express Tour

NUEVA ECIJA's Albert Primero (right) and Alfie Catalan cross the finish line together at the Quirino Grandstand yesterday. Primero won the fourth and final stage.

JESS YUSON

By June Navarro

SANTY Barnachea of Corporate Air-Visayas kept fellow national rider Arnel Quirimit from a distance in the 168-kilometer final ride from Lipa City to Manila to become the first-ever champion of the FedEx Express Tour.

From the elevated terrain of Mabitac, Laguna down to the traffic snarls in Cainta, Rizal, Barnachea never left his eye on Quirimit to capture the crown in four stages spanning 571.7 kilometers within the Calabarzon growth area.

"With the lead that I had before the fourth stage, I just stuck with Arnel (Quirimit) up to the finish line," said the 26-year-old Barnachea in Tagalog, who placed 4th overall during the defunct Marlboro Tour back in 1998.

The Umingan, Pangasinan native never won a stage but enjoyed a two-minute seven-second lead over the second-running Quirimit at the start of the Lipa City-Manila travel.

For his Herculean efforts, Barnachea pocketed the P50,000 top individual price, which he said would be divided among his teammates in the Visayas team.

The 27-year-old Quirimit, drafted by Pagcor-Nueva Viscaya and coached by former mountain king Carlo Guieb, also became P50,000 richer after capturing the King of the Mountain award (P10,000), Sprint King plum (P10,000) and the runner-up individual earnings of P30,000.

Barnachea and Quirimit stole the limelight from Accel-Nueva Ecija's Albert Primero, who clinched yesterday's fourth and final stage.

Primero, a hometown hero from the town of Lennec, Guimba, Nueva Ecija, beat Airfreight 2100-NCR's Alfie Catalan to the finish with a best time of four hours, 16 minutes and 48 seconds.

Primero's victory shoved him to third overall while the 20-year-old Catalan came in at fourth.

Feliciano, Primero and Tour veteran Bernard Luzon proved instrumental in giving Accel-Nueva Ecija the overall team crown.

Nueva Ecija, which was also powered by national rider Ronald Gorantes, fattened their pockets with P200,000. Runner-up Darlington-Central Luzon settled for P150,000 while Smart-Laguna got P100,000.

CT scan long overdue

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

IN 1995 following the rash of ring-related deaths due to massive brain injuries, I appealed to then President Fidel Ramos to come to the rescue of poor and neglected Filipino boxers by providing them with a CT scan machine which they could use for free. Mr. Ramos responded immediately to my appeal by directing former Executive Secretary Ruben Torres to "get the GAB (Games and Amusement Board), DOH (Department of Health) and OP (Office of the President) together on this problem and enter into a winning solution to the problem of professional boxers ASAP."

Unfortunately, the well-meaning directive was overtaken by events. And worse, nobody from the succeeding governments bothered to consider this important matter at all. Last Friday, I was astounded to learn from GAB boxing division chief Noli Flores that, despite the passage of time—and a Presidential directive at that—there was still no CT scan machine which our poor and neglected boxers could use for free. Why do we have this bad habit of putting off for tomorrow what we can do today?

Because of this sad development, GAB chair Eduardo Villanueva and concerned boxing groups such as Jun Sarreal's Professional Boxing Federation should join hands and focus their efforts on acquiring this long overdue CT scan machine instead of pointing accusing fingers at one another following the recent death of boxer Meruel Zayas due to brain injury in an ill-fated card promoted by Johnny Elorde in Paniqui, Tarlac.

GAB and PBF officials should now use their clout and influence to ask this government to acquire the badly needed CT scan machine. A GAB requirement, a CT scan costs almost P2,000 per boxer, which is still a stiff price to pay for the struggling boxer and even for a well-meaning boxing manager. A CT scan is a drain on the pocket, to say the least. How to acquire this expensive machine? Perhaps, the GAB and PBF could tap the cash-rich Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. or the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office to purchase the machine. Or they could ask President Macapagal-Arroyo to require the government-run Philippine General Hospital to extend the free use of their CT scan facilities to all licensed professional boxers.

TOP AWARDEE
Multi-awarded bowler Bong Coo is congratulated by President Macapagal-Arroyo during the recent granting of awards and incentives to athletes and coaches who gave the Philippines honor in past Olympics, Asian Games and world championships.

Lerio, Payla gain boxing finals

By Edwin Villanueva

ATHENS GREECE—Arlan Lerio and Violito Payla pulled off impressive wins Saturday night, boosting the number of Team Caltex Philippines finalists to three in the 2002 Acropolis Cup International Amateur Boxing Championships at the Platon Stadium here.

Lerio proved too much for Finland's Athit Thiangtrong, scoring a 24-8 romp, while Payla trounced Liam Cunningham of Ireland, 23-16, in the semifinals of the bantamweight (54 kg) and flyweight (51kg) divisions, respectively.

Thus, Lerio and Payla joined lightflyweight (48 kg) Harry Tañamor in Sunday night's hunt for the gold medals. A victory for them would give the Philippines its best ever performance in the annual slugfest.

A three-out-of-three for team Caltex didn't materialize in the semifinals after featherweight (57 kg) Genebert Basadre was overwhelmed by the flashy, power-punching Bobirnat Ovidio of Cyprus, (RSC –O 3rd round).

In the finals, Lerio faces wily Greek slugger and crowd favorite Artour Mikaelian, who whipped Bedak Zsolt of Hungary, 23-12.

Payla's opponent will be Canada's Sebastien Gauthier, who subdued Gagik Martirosyan, of Armenia, 24-14.

Tañamor had previously set up a duel against Salim Salimov of Bulgaria as the only two competitors in the lightflyweight category.

Meanwhile, Abap president Manny Lopez urged the Filipino boxers to go all-out in the finals following an overseas call to coaches Patricio Gaspi and Alexander Arroyo.

"*Huwag sana silang makontento sa* silver. *Pilitin nating makapag uwi ng* gold," Gaspi quoted Lopez as saying.

Aside from Caltex, the RP boxers' trip here was supported by Pacific Heights, Revicon, and the Philippine Sports Commission.

9-cocker tomorrow

OFFICIAL entries of the "2002 Mandaluyong 9-Cock International Derby" must be submitted today at the Mandaluyong Coliseum.

Thre 3-day cockfest (June 4, 6 and 8), sponsored by Pagcor, Casino-Filipino-Parañaque, Sagupaan Super Feeds and Washout Shampoo, will start at 5 p.m. tomorrow since the number of confirmed entries swelled to 65 as of yesterday. Derby hosts are OPMI president Vic Yu and Negros cocker Mansenares.

For inquiries, contact 531-4003 4005, 535-2341 and 534-4110.

SPORTSWATCH

Agassi beats young rival

PARIS—Legs churning, his white shirt flecked with clay, Andre Agassi grunted as he stretched to whip a forehand across his body on the 33rd stroke of a pivotal point that seemed destined to last until the sun set. The ball darted to the opposite corner, where Tommy Robredo's lunging swipe hit only air. In a match between the most, ahem, veteran (Agassi, 32) and youngest (Robredo, 20) men left in the French Open, the No. 4-seeded Agassi dictated play and won 6-2, 6-4, 6-2 Saturday to reach the fourth round. Others advancing in temperatures that touched 80 included No. 2 Marat Safin (with Chelsea Clinton in attendance), No. 11 Juan Carlos Ferrero, reigning champion Jennifer Capriati, No. 3 Serena Williams, No. 7 Jelena Dokic and 2000 winner Mary Pierce. *AP*

Norman falls; Estes leads

POTOMAC, Maryland—The Shark strayed into the creek. Greg Norman, ahead by two strokes after the second round, struggled on almost every hole Saturday in the Kemper Open and lost his lead in the water at the sixth hole. The result was a jumbled leaderboard, with no one taking control and a bevy of players in contention. Bob Estes and Bob Burns shot 69s to lead at 10-under 203. *AP*

Sorenstam moves up by 5

AURORA, Illinois—Annika Sorenstam's challengers tried their best to keep some suspense in the Kellogg-Keebler Classic. They only partly succeeded. Sorenstam opened a five-stroke lead in the first-year event in suburban Chicago on Saturday, finishing 36 holes on the Stonebridge course at 14 under. She followed her first-round 63 with a 5-under-par 67. Danielle Ammaccapane, one of Sorenstam's playing partners, was 9 under after shooting a 70. *AP*

Tuason Forum guest

FEDEX president Lito Alvarez and Metropolitan Basketball Association director for marketing and business development Ramon Tuason share the spotlight in this week's PSA Forum at the Holiday Inn Hotel.

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Stage 4 Standings

(Lipa City - Manila 168 kms)

1. Primero 04:16:48
2.Catalan, same
3.Davadilla, same
4. Alagano +00:00:23
5. Gorantes, same
6. Ramos, same
7.Navarro, same
8.Barnachea, same
9.Quirimit, same
10.Vinluan, same
11. Manapul +00:00:38
12. Jasul +00:00:17
13.Robosa, same
14.Basibas, same
15. Millanes, same

Overall Standing

1. Barnachea 12:41:13
2.Quirimit + 00:02:06
3.Primero +00:03:20
4.Catalan +00:01:22
5.Feliciano +00:01:09
6.Ramos +00:00:53
7.Luzon +00:02:10
8.Davadilla +00:02:52
9.Reynante +00:00:31
10.Mendoza +00:00:10
11.Jasul +00.00:02
12.Millanes +00:00:30
13.Navarro +00:02:24
14.Benosa +00:00:16
15.Alagano +00:00:06
16. delaCruz +00:00:38
17. Ganigan +00:00:06
18. Atilano +00:00:02
19. Calosa +00:00:12
20. Gorantes +00:01:21
21.Dolosa, +00:00:55
22.Robosa +00:00:29
23.Curtan, same
24.Martinez +00:02:49
25.Apolinar +00:02:54
26.Rosario +00:00:57
27.Dasalia +00:01:04
28.Marcelo +00:01:40
29.Pagnanawon +00:00:57
30.Manapul +00:04:29
31.Talaver +00:01:47
32.Puuina +00:00:44
33.Espiritu +00:00:36
34.Vinluan +00:04:02
35.Cagas +00:08:31
36.Gulton +00:03:38
37.Ricnfort, J. +00:06:13
38.Pagnanawon, L., +00:05:55
39.Basibas +00:00:25
40.Vellaber +00:00:25
41.Acosta +00:03 05
42.Gonowon +00:05:00
43.Osabillo +00:10:27
44.Servino +00:04:21

Team Standing

1.Nueva Ecija 40.35.39
2.Rizal, 41:00:50
3.Central Luzon, 41:02:08
4.Northern Luzon, 41:05:16
5.Pangasinan, 41:10:16
6.Mindanao, 41:10:34
7.Ilocandia, 41:17:20
8.Visayas, 41:18:42
9 NCR, 41:25:06
10.Southern Luzon, 41:43:48

Overall Winner: Barnachea
King of the mountain: Quirimit, 19pts.
Sprints: Quirimit, 15pts

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   b. PLDT Business Offices
   c. PLDT Selling Booths and Sales Representatives
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3. Customer should bring the copy of the PLDT notice and the two months previous billing statements (paid and in current standing) from your current telephone service provider along with a valid ID (driver's license, company ID, SSS or TIN) to the nearest PLDT Business Office.

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METRO

Editor Louie C. Camino

A political slaying, says VACC of member's death /A26
New blast shatters Pangarap /A26
Bare Eye: Why Mayor Vi should not be smiling in that photo /A26

'Do not prejudge our boy'

By Romulo O. Ponte,
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

CALAUAN, Laguna—Relatives of one of the suspects in the robbery and killing of heart specialist Franklin Avellaneda appealed to investigators, media and the public to stop treating suspect Kissinger Brion Kraft as if he were already guilty.

Kraft's sister-in-law and the family's longtime housekeeper, who both did not want to be iden-

DO NOT/ A26

Cops kill 2 convenience store rob suspects in Malabon

By Tina Santos

TWO suspected holdup men were killed and a third was seriously wounded in an alleged shootout with policemen in Malabon City before dawn yesterday.

Arnold Escal, 27, of Sapang Palay, San Jose del Monte City, Bulacan, and his unidentified companion were declared dead on arrival at the Pagamutang Bayan ng Malabon due to multiple gunshot wounds, police said.

The third suspect, Albert Aduan, 27, of Catmon, Malabon City, was treated at the Tondo Medical

COPS KILL/A26

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SMOKING SCARE
Three-year-old Sean Pulido was definitely scared when organizers of No-Tobacco Day last week sent out their Yosi Kadiri mascot to warn people about the dangers of smoking. The encounter happened at the Quezon Memorial Circle in Quezon City.
JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

House to probe UPLB editor's appointment

By Romulo O. Ponte
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LOS BAÑOS, Laguna—District III Rep. Danton Q. Bueser has asked Congress to look into the controversy in the appointment of the new editor in chief of the official organ of the University of the Philippines here.

In a May 7 letter addressed to Rep. Harlin Abayon, chair of the House committee on higher education, Bueser cited Mari Zaira Kristine L. Lopez's allegation that the editorial examination committee violated the rules on the publication of the UPLB Perspective.

In April, UPLB Chancellor Wilfredo David appointed Nicolo M. Masakayan as the new editor in chief of the UPLB Perspective for academic year 2002-2003. But the five-man board of examiners did not endorse Masakayan because he got a total

HOUSE/ A26

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KAMPO 2088 #47 WEST AVENUE Q.C. — GABRIELLA NEXT PAGE — ☎373.5110
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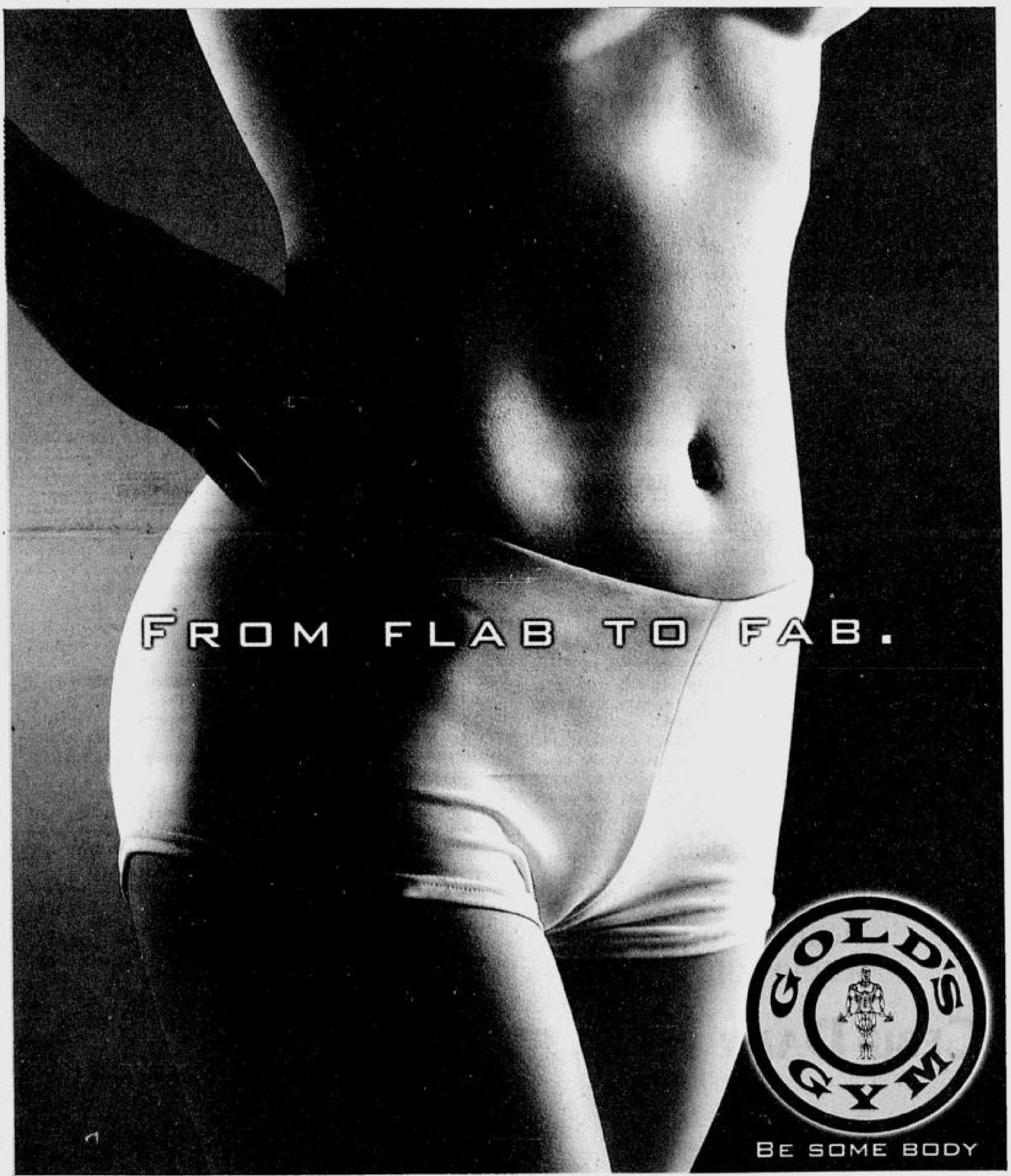

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CALTEX What Drives You

A political slaying, says VACC of member's death

By Nelson F. Flores

RIZAL Provincial Police Office Director Senior Supt. Arturo Tolentino yesterday ordered a thorough investigation of the death in Taytay, Rizal of an active member of the Volunteer Against Crime and Corruption last Thursday.

Tolentino issued the order after VACC Chair Dante Jimenez urged the RPPO to investigate the death of Arturo Soberano, a council member of Barangay Malinaw, Pasig City. He said the Taytay police should do everything possible to determine whether there was foul play in the death of Soberano.

"We think this is a political killing and the hit-and-run accident is just a cover," Jimenez said. "Soberano was a popular figure and a threat to the current political leadership in his community because of his commitment against graft and corruption."

Soberano's widow, too, said the death of her husband was not an accident.

"I recently asked all VACC members to be careful since Soberano's death could be the start of our persecution," Jimenez said.

Police records said Soberano was on board his Suzuki scooter when it was accidentally sideswiped by a speeding vehicle along Tapayan Road in Barangay San Juan about 11 a.m. last Thursday.

The incident was reported to the VACC office only eight hours later.

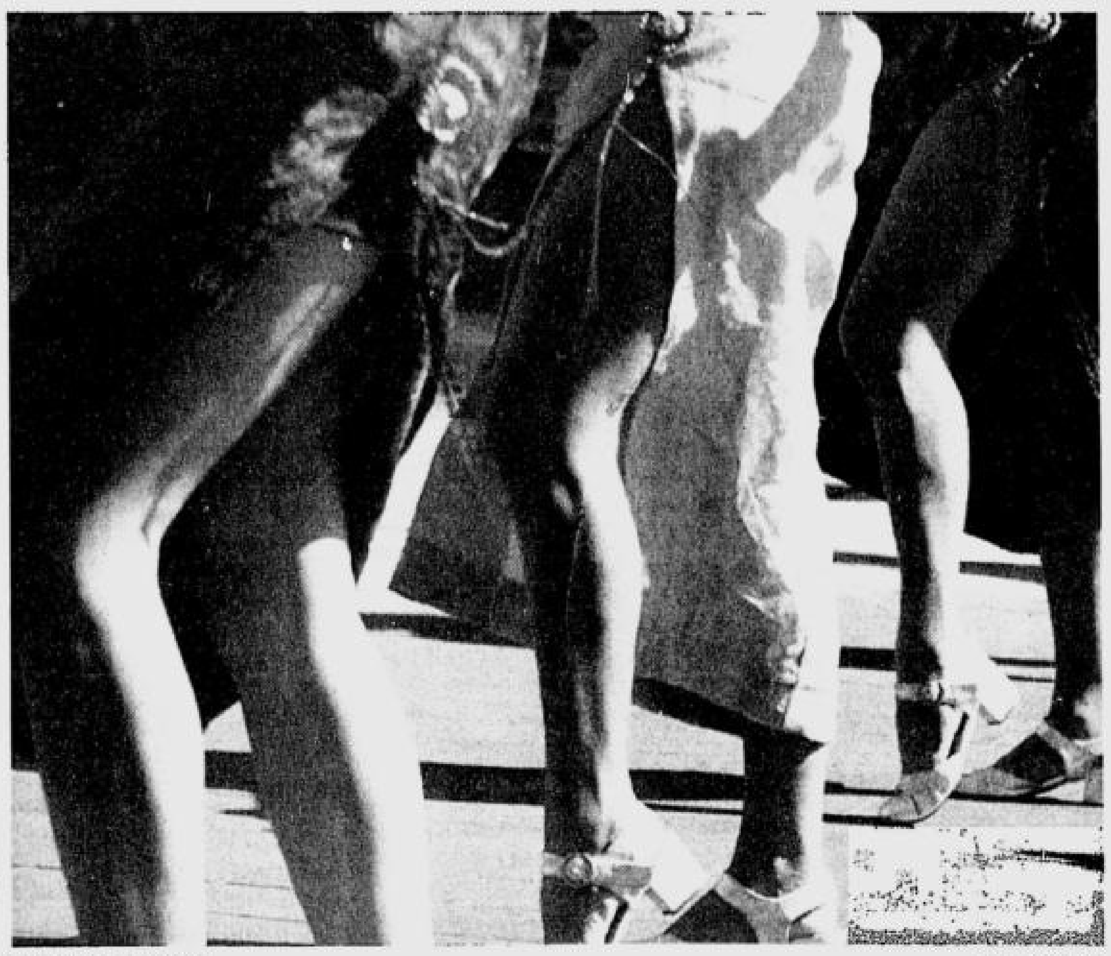
Police said Soberano died when his unprotected head hit the concrete gutter while the vehicle that hit him fled.

Jimenez insisted that Soberano was apparently killed because of his work for the VACC. He said reports reaching his office indicated that Soberano was hot on the trail of some barangay officials in the community because of their suspected involvement in the plunder of the local coffers.

Jimenez said that a few days before his death, Soberano reported to the VACC that hoodlums in his barangay had threatened him and his family because of his involvement in the exposé of a number of local irregularities.

Soberano claimed that the hoodlums were under the protection of influential people in Barangay Malinaw, according to Jimenez.

The victim's widow, Teresita Soberano, said her husband was on his way to Taytay to get important documents about an exposé involving barangay officials when he died.



THIGH LAND

JOAN BONDOC

Participants put their best foot forward during a street show in the middle of Ayala Avenue last Friday as part of the celebration of Makati City's 332nd year.

Why Mayor Vi should not be smiling in that photo

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

SAVE him from himself.

We've heard this said of loud, insufferable politicians who, after a petty achievement, would shout to high heavens and bask in the spotlight obviously thinking they're God's gift to humanity.

What to do? Maybe a little rap on the head could help the show-off wake up to reality.

We'll not let this drag.

There is a winsome four-column main photo of Lipa City Mayor Vilma Santos in yesterday's sports section of Today, her arms raised in triumph together with members of the victorious Nueva Ecija cycling team.

The caption said the Nueva Ecija riders won the team trial in the FedEx Tour of Calabarzon that had a stop in Lipa City on Saturday.

In whooping it up with the triumphant team, Mayor Santos appeared like the biggest winner of them all.

She was radiant, all smiles, and slim enough to make her jacket and tight black pants look very becoming.

***

Now, it's time to set the record straight.

Nueva Ecija won, but Lipa City ended up the big loser.

No, Lipa had no team in the race. But the city was paralyzed practically the whole day Saturday when it hosted the third-day stop of the comebacking multi-staged bicycle tour.

There was utter chaos, confusion.

Traffic was hopelessly clogged, life and business rudely disrupted, as the city tried to play it nice in welcoming the so-called sons of summer.

Naturally, tempers flared, but all the residents could do was groan and bear it.

Gerry Mayor, who normally needed 10 minutes to drive back from the city proper to his place in Pangao, was hopelessly stalled.

He tried and now considered himself lucky to have been home again after being trapped more than two hours in the city's vehicular quagmire.

Ato Saguid, visiting with a friend, crawled back to the Ludlod area after having wrongly ventured on C.M. Recto, Lipa's main avenue. The poor visitor vowed never to return again.

Mar Maralit, who used to drive from the Lipa cathedral area to Pangao, wisely rode a tricycle. Just the same, he ended up walking to his destination after the trike driver raised his hands and abandoned the trip.

***

You bet something went wrong in Lipa City on Saturday.

It also became clear that the planners who approved of the affair did not have a sound traffic contingency plan.

Of course, there's the specter of the traffic nightmare recurring when the FedEx Tour goes full blast, as planned, next year with Lipa looming as another major stop.

Why? Because, based on her vibrant pose, Mayor Vi appeared convinced everything went perfectly well in her city's hosting of the bicycle tour.

The sad truth is that practically all those who ventured into downtown Lipa on Saturday (except for Mayor Vi) ended up hapless victims.

Well, city authorities could claim it's not everyday that a city gets the chance to be visited by a rich cavalcade as grand as that one participated in by the country's leading riders.

It was Lipa City's turn to bask in the sporting sun.

Unfortunately, the city also succeeded in showing how a sports fiesta could turn into hell without sane planning.

***

There were better options.

For example, there was this laudable suggestion that the Lipa finish line of the FedEx bike tour should have been put up on the Star Hi-way, the smooth, pleasant 20-km passage constructed by the Fidel Ramos government and next proudly opened and owned as an achievement by the Erap Estrada regime.

Maybe nobody had told this to Mayor Vi.

But other than saving Lipa from chaos and shame, it would have helped promote the Star Hi-way, that picture-perfect stretch that saves motorists from driving through the tight, narrow inner roads of Sto. Tomas, Tanauan, Malvar and Lipa itself, all for P16.

Anyway, another fellow who had to suffer through the Saturday chaos swore city cops made things worse.

It was observed that most if not all of the Lipa City policemen on the road gleefully abandoned their posts just to be able to gawk at the colorful riders.

Which simply means that the race, the original Tour of Luzon that next grew to be known as the Marlboro Tour, is back with a bang.

It's a great summer sporting treat which we have all longed for year after year.

We can only thank FedEx for going out of its way to bring the spectacle back.

But Lipeños were not in a mood to thank Mayor Vi on Saturday.

Not a few residents were still cursing yesterday.

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New blast shatters Pangarap

VIOLENCE continued to rock Caloocan City's disputed Pangarap Village, which is being claimed by businessman Gregorio "Greggy" Araneta, as unidentified men fired guns and threw another grenade at village guards about 2 a.m. yesterday.

No one was hurt in the attack on the ACA Compound of Pangarap Village, according to investigators. Police theorized that it was an attempt to intimidate the guards, who have been locked in a stand-off with urban poor residents of the 156-hectare property who vowed to fight for their right to hold on to the land.

Police said they recovered 15 empty M-14 shells, 10 empty M-16 shells, 3 slugs of undetermined type, and a grenade pin.

A grenade also exploded in the compound on May 26, injuring five security guards.

Tina Santos

Worker slain in gang war

ANOTHER gang war yesterday caused the death of a 19-year-old construction worker in Payatas, Quezon City.

Police said Marlon Mata, of Acacia Street, Payatas, died instantly from a gunshot wound in the stomach.

They said Mata was hanging out on Acacia Street when two groups of teeners, with at least 10 members each, engaged in a riot about 1 a.m.

A member of one of the warring groups fired a homemade shotgun which hit Mata, police said.

Police were still looking for the youths involved in the gang war.

Tina Santos

Cops kill 2 . . .

From page A25

Center also for gunshot wounds.

According to SPO2 George Gubatan, the shootout happened about 3 a.m. on Gov. Pascual Avenue in Acacia, Malabon, just a few meters away from the Kids and Moms convenience store.

Evelyn Biancaflor, a cashier of the 24-hour convenience store, earlier sought police assistance when she noticed the three men roaming around the shop.

Biancaflor said they were the same ones who robbed the Kids and Moms outlet at the corner of Rizal Avenue Extension and Sanciangco Street in Tonsuya, Malabon on May 26, according to police.

PO2s Christopher Rodriguez and Redentor Mantala Jr. and PO1 Reynaldo Gabatin of the Malabon Investigation Branch went to the store following Biancaflor's call.

They said the three men suddenly fired at them and they had to fire back, resulting in a shootout.

The wounded Aduan managed to escape but the lawmen were able to track him down when a security guard at the hospital where he sought treatment called the police and informed them of a man being treated for gunshot wounds.

Gubatan, who was hit in the right foot during the alleged shootout, identified Aduan as the one who shot him.

Police said Biancaflor positively identified two of the three men as the same men who held up the Kids and Moms branch in Tonsuya.

Biancaflor said she was transferred to the Acacia branch after the Tonsuya branch was robbed.

Police said they would file charges of direct assault upon a person in authority and illegal possession of firearms against Aduan.

'Do not prejudge . . .

From page A25

tified, said the Kraft family was shocked and disgusted by what they described as one-sided publicity against the youngest son of the family.

"We could not believe that Kissinger would take part in the robbery of a mere P20,000 and kill the doctor because (Kissinger) is very friendly and well provided with money by his parents," the housekeeper said.

Kraft's relatives admitted that Kraft is a nephew of Calauan Mayor Antonio Sanchez, who is serving a life sentence at the National Penitentiary in Muntinlupa City for the rape and killing of UPLB student Eileen Sarmenta and the murder of her friend Allan Gomez.

Avellaneda, 46, was killed on May 11 at the University of the Philippines in Los Ba¤os, Laguna.

The NBI on Tuesday said it was hunting down three members of the Tau Gamma Phi fraternity suspected of killing Avellaneda, of St. Luke's Medical Center.

Nelia Babehis, the slain doctor's secretary at St. Luke's for 10 years, earlier told the Inquirer that Avellaneda was a native of Atimonan, Quezon and had served in various hospitals in Laguna, Batangas and Quezon provinces.

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco identified the suspects as Kraft of Calauan, Laguna; Mark Alba of San Pedro, Laguna; and Rolando Rivera Jr. of Putatan, Muntinlupa City, all 20 years old.

Kissinger has been in hiding since he was implicated in the crime. "Kissinger is only being dragged into the mess by a friend of the doctor," she said.

Neighbors and a relative of the alleged friend confirmed the doctor's friendship with a high school senior here. They said the doctor had frequented the house of the 17-year-old boy and that "this is almost common knowledge in the neighborhood."

The boy's house is located a few meters away from the Kraft house, they said.

The boy's older sister said the doctor and her brother had been best friends for about a year now. She said the cardiologist frequently visited the makeshift house of her parents where her brother also lives.

She said Avellaneda's last visit was on May 10, when he said he could not come for the May 15 fiesta due to his busy schedule.

"The doctor served as the physician of my mother who has a heart ailment," she said. "We were shocked to know that the doctor was brutally killed. He was kind, generous and very friendly. He did not deserve to die that way. Our family was happy to have a doctor friend who gave us medical attention for free."

The Kraft family owns Kraft Motors, which assembles jeepneys and other vehicles. There are nine children in the family, and Kissinger is the youngest, according to the Kraft housekeeper.

She said Kissinger was preparing to go back to school in the coming semester. Two of his brothers are active members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and are assigned somewhere in Luzon area, she said.

House to probe UPLB . . .

(From page A25)

rating of only 79.09 even as the board recommended Lopez who garnered the highest score of 90.03.

David asked committee chair Leonardo Chua to reexamine the scores, which Chua did alone, according to Lopez. Chua noted that the earlier "report on the results of the editorial examination reflects a statistical anomaly (inconsistency) in the ratings given by some members of the ad hoc editorial committee."

"The highest average score determines the top place in the examination," said student regent J. Paul Manzanilla of UP Diliman in a May 16 letter to David. "We commit a violation in the charter of the Perspective . . . if we decide otherwise."

The College Editors Guild of the Philippines (CEGP) shared Manzanilla's position.

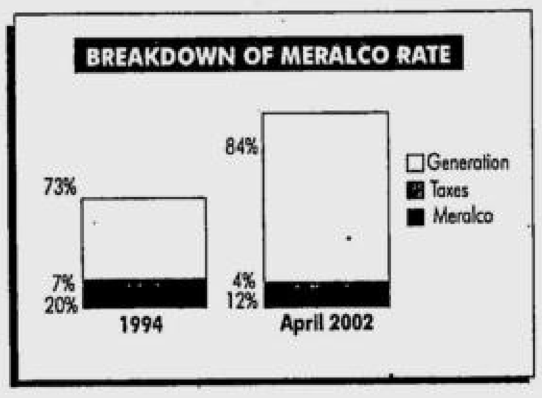
David denied Lopez's motions for reconsideration, saying there was "no cogent reason to reverse my earlier decision appointing Nicolo M. Masakayan."

UNDERSTANDING PPA facts

Meralco firmly states the facts on the purchased power adjustment or PPA to set the record straight on the many computations and statements issued in media. Other issues on electric service have also been raised. These are the facts.

Meralco is a distributor and retailer of electricity. It gets power from four suppliers of electricity: the National Power Corporation (NPC) which is the main supplier of two-thirds or 66% of Meralco energy requirements for first quarter 2002; and 3 independent power producers (IPPs) - Duracom Power, First Gas Power Corp. and Quezon Power Phils. Ltd.

For every peso paid to Meralco today, only 12 centavos go to Meralco for electric distribution; 84 centavos go to NPC and IPPs for power generation and 4 centavos go to government to pay for taxes.



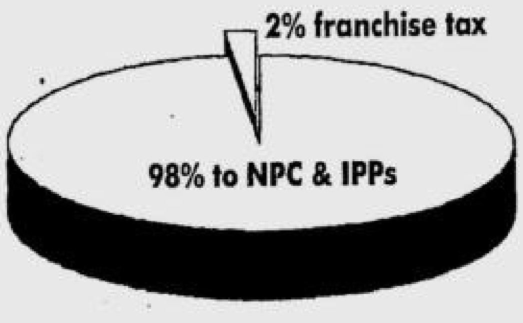
PPA

- Approved and defined by the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) as an automatic cost adjustment mechanism that reflects increases in cost of power bought from NPC and other power producers from 1994 levels.
- It is present in electric bills of almost all of the 139 electric utilities in the country including NPC.
- PPA increases when the price of electricity bought from NPC or other power suppliers increases.

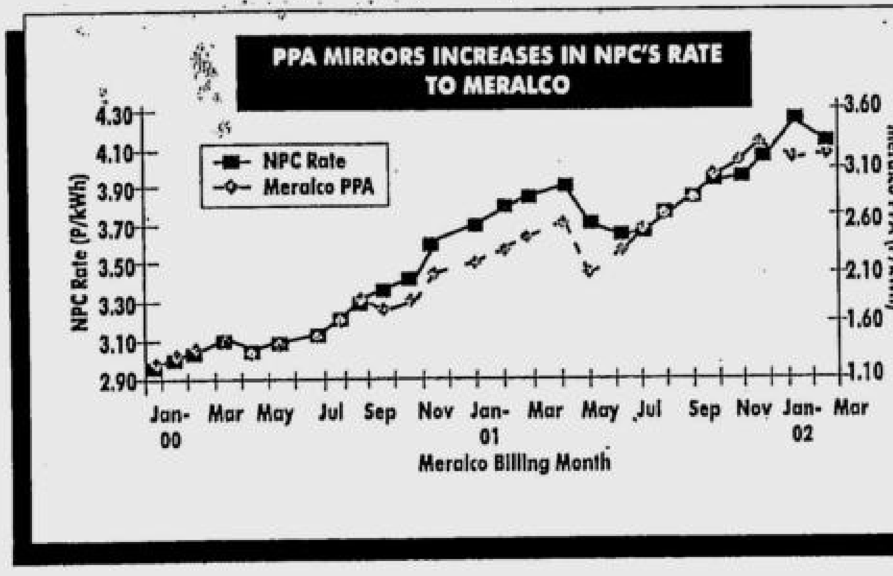
Simply, it is the difference in cost of purchased power in 2002 and the cost of purchased power in 1994.

Not a single centavo of the PPA goes to Meralco.

- 98% goes to NPC and to other Meralco power suppliers.
- 2% goes to the government in the form of franchise tax.
- The regulator can confirm this cost level. It is their mandate and responsibility to monthly monitor, regulate and confirm Meralco's rates.



In the past two years, PPA increases have been driven by NPC's own increases.



NPC's selling rate to Meralco is higher than the rate it sells power to other electric utilities in Luzon. Meralco is NPC's biggest customer.

Meralco has NOT increased its Basic Charge to its customers. The last increase allowed by government in Meralco's Basic Charge was in 1994. Yet prices of other essential goods and services have gone up by over 100%.

PRICE MOVEMENTS OF BASIC PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

January 1994-March 2002

Product or Service	January 1994	March 2002	%-Increase
Fuel Products			
LPG (11-kg cylinder)	₱125.00	₱260.00	108.0
Diesel	₱6.46 per liter	₱12.92 per liter	100.0
Fuel Oil	₱2.65 per liter	₱10.00 per liter	277.4
Residential Telephone Line	₱264.56 per month	₱668.24 per month	152.6
Transportation PUB	₱4.08 per 10 kms	₱9.22 per 10 kms	126.0
Meralco bill to consumers	**₱3.40 per kWh (Feb. 1994)**	**₱6.53 per kWh**	**92.1**
			P-Increase
• **Basic Rate**	**₱3.40 per kWh**	**₱3.40 per kWh**	**-**
• **CERA**	**-**	**₱0.21**	**0.21**
• **PPA**	**-**	**₱3.22**	**3.22**
• **Power Act Reduction**	**-**	**(₱0.30)**	**(0.30)**

Basic Charges reflect costs prevailing in 1994. All increases in monthly bills since then are reflected in the CERA and PPA.

Meralco is transparent with its PPA computations.

- Every month, Meralco submits its PPA computations for ERC review. These computations are on record with the ERC and are available for public examination.
- All Meralco charges have been open to consumers through public hearings.
- ERC monitoring assures that Meralco cannot possibly overcharge its customers. Meralco is part of a heavily regulated industry.

IPPs

- In the late 1980s, government through Executive Order 215 encouraged the private sector to put up power plants due to lack of capital to do so. This began the entry of IPPs or independent power producers.
- All IPPs had to be accredited by the Department of Energy (DOE) and were included in NPC's power development program.

All of Meralco's IPPs were encouraged and accredited by the government.

- All of Meralco's IPP contracts underwent public hearings, were scrutinized and were approved by the government regulator, then the ERB.
- On Quezon Power, ERB ruled on July 1995 that:

"In view of the fact that Ogden's (Quezon Power) power rate is lower than the NPC rate, applicant Meralco will not only diversify its sourcing of power from NPC but will also benefit from the project's competitive cost of power. THUS, IT CAN BE CONCLUDED THAT THE COST IS JUST AND REASONABLE."

In the case of First Gas Power Corp., the government asked Meralco to provide a ready market for the electricity that would be produced from natural gas discovered in Malampaya, Palawan.

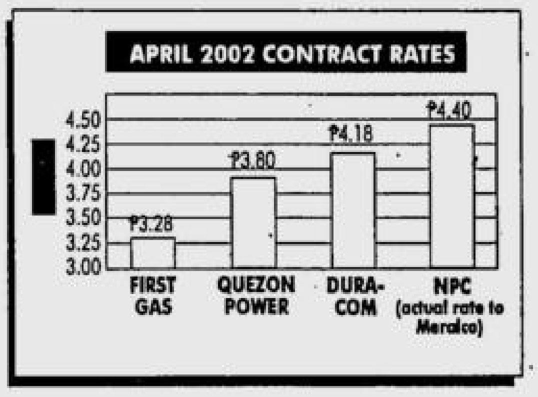
- The gas find was determined to be capable of fueling a 3,000-MW power plant for 20 years. This energy resource was so large that the government alone would not be able to develop it. The huge investment needed would require a ready market to justify the billions of dollars that would be needed to develop the gas fields.
- In 1994, then Energy Sec. Francisco Viray approached Meralco to provide the market for half of the power (1,500 MW) that could be produced from Malampaya gas.
- Since Meralco is not into power generation, it approached the IPPs to consider using natural gas from Malampaya. They all declined due to technical and time constraints.

MERALCO INDEPENDENT POWER PRODUCERS (IPPS)

	Duracom (I&II)	First Gas		Quezon Power
		Sta. Rita	San Lorenzo	
Size	213 MW	1000 MW	500 MW	433 MW
Fuel Type	Bunker C	Natural Gas	Natural Gas	Coal
Date of Comml Operation	Feb. 1996 Feb. 2000	Blk 1: Jun. 2000 Blk 2: Aug. 2000	Mid-2002	May 2000
Type of contract	Dispatchable	Baseload	Baseload	Baseload
Date of ERB Approval	Jan 1998 (PA) Sep. 2000 (FA)	July 1997	January 2000	July 1995

- It was only First Gas, a joint venture between First Philippine Holdings and British Gas that accepted the challenge. In October 2001, First Gas' Sta. Rita plant became the first power plant in the country to produce electricity from indigenous natural gas.

Our choice of power suppliers is not based on ownership but on which IPP can sell Meralco power at least cost for consumers. First Gas has the cheapest power supply cost for Meralco.



LOWER POWER RATES

Power rates can be lowered now.

Meralco can bring down the PPA by as much as about 60 centavos per kwh if NPC allows Meralco's IPPs to run at the levels at which it was designed for or its minimum energy quantity (MEQ). This would be a real reduction in cost and not delayed collection as proposed for NPC's PPA.

- At present, NPC has not dispatched Meralco IPPs at MEQ due to alleged transmission constraints.
- Meralco IPPs use environmentally friendly natural gas that will reduce dependence on imported oil whose prices have risen recently.

In the long term, the new power law, Republic Act 9136 (Electric Power Industry Reform Act) aims to lower overall power costs, benefiting the consumers by:

- Removing cross subsidies - NPC's rate to Meralco is loaded with subsidies to other Luzon Grid customers as well as to the Visayas and Mindanao Grids. Under the current subsidies, Meralco's customers subsidize all other electricity consumers in the Philippines.
- Privatizing NPC, and
- Giving consumers a choice of electricity providers

These are the facts. We stand by our record, a century of service with integrity to the Filipino nation.

MERALCO
www.meralco.com.ph

Josh will always be my No. 1

KRIS AND TELL

Kris Aquino

THE MOST important man in my life celebrates his birthday tomorrow. **Josh** is turning 7 years old.

When I look at him now, I'm amazed that he really did come out of my body. I outweigh him by just 20 pounds, and he's just seven and a half inches shorter than I. It wouldn't surprise me if in just a couple of years he'd be towering over me.

But like all moms, I feel Josh will forever remain my baby. Nobody else eagerly spends as much time with me as he does. And nobody else smells as good, looks as cute, and is as *masarap* to pinch, embrace and kiss as my Josh.

He has memorized my schedule so that on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, he feels left out if he isn't able to step foot in ABS CBN because those days are when I tape "Game KNB." Tuesday nights, he knows that his mama goes to Baclaran to pray. And Sundays, immediately after lunch, he tells his grandma, "'Bye, Lola. Buzz ('The Buzz') *na kami ni* Mama."

Nobody else has come close to equaling his willingness to support me in my career. To Josh, it's a fact of life that "Mama has work."

In church during Sunday Mass, I can't hide my thrill that during the Our Father when the celebrating priest normally encourages the parishioners to clasp hands, Josh really makes it a point to firmly grip both my hands to prevent anybody else from holding me. If we're with my mom, he gives in and wedges himself between us so that he'll be holding both our hands, but he won't let anybody else hold hands with us. When we are with Louie, my "The Buzz" executive producer, who is blatantly effeminate, Josh still won't allow us to hold hands. He even goes to the extend of telling **Louie**, "*Tito* Louie, no! *Galit na ko sa 'yo!*"

I know the day will come when he won't be comfortable being affectionate with me in public, and I truly dread the day when he'll prefer to hold, hug, and kiss another girl. But until that day arrives, I intend to savor every moment that I remain No. 1 in his heart.

> Nobody else smells as good, looks as cute, and is as *masarap* to pinch, embrace and kiss as my Josh

Regardless of my eventual displacement in his heart's priorities, he'll always be my No. 1. And for as long as I'm alive, he is and will always be my most rewarding source of all that's inspiring and heartwarming.

Encouraging

On a career note, but still with a Joshua connection, the "Maalaala Mo Kaya" episode that **Phillip (Salvador)** and I topbilled rated No. 1 for the week of its telecast. It was thrilling for us to find out that we rated 7 percentage points higher than the No. 2 show of that week, the Monday night FPJ movie, which is the perennial top-rater.

That guest appearance and the encouraging reception of my return to acting has made me decide to accept a tempting role in a movie that's slated to begin production in August. I was offered this film a couple of months back, but I was initially hesitant because I wasn't sure if my schedule could manage it and if I should give my first love another go.

It seemed risky to try something that I had already left behind, especially because I realized that TV hosting is really my true place in the world of entertainment. It would be embarrassing if I didn't show any marked improvement after nearly five years of absence from the big screen, eight years if you count the time I was working non-stop in films.

Three women

But the offer is to work on a story that I can clearly identify with, and I get to share the responsibility of carrying the film with two actresses that I hold in very high professional and personal esteem. The story isn't going to be a melodrama or a heavy cinematic piece. Rather, it's envisioned as a light, entertaining, modern, insightful and, if we're successful, witty look at what three women go through during the endings of their relationships. Not all break-ups are cry-athons after all.

If all plans materialize, and barring any production hitches, expect the film to be released before the year's end, or at the very latest by February 2003. I wish I could tell you who the other two actresses are, but I can't preempt my producers. I'll have to wait until filming has actually started.

"MAGKAPATID" Star Sharon Cuneta and Rudy Fernandez and Ara Mina of "Diskarte" headlined the recent "Flores de Mayo" in Manila.

Star-studded 'Flores de Mayo' tries to lure crowds to Manila film festival

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

MEGASTAR **Sharon Cuneta** was there and so was action superstar **Rudy Fernandez. Rufa Mae Quinto** was a hit with the crowd, and **Joyce Jimenez** and **Ara Mina** were also big head-turners.

If the big turnout of people along the stretch of Quirino Avenue from Roxas Boulevard to Nagtahan was any gauge, then this year's Manila Film Festival should be a success.

Friday night's "Flores de Mayo" ushered in the filmfest, which will start June 12.

People missed their favorite telenovelas, even skipped dinner to watch the two-hour parade.

As early as 5 p.m., a huge crowd had already filled both sides of Quirino Avenue, waiting to get a glimpse of the stars, who rode in beautifully adorned horse-drawn carriages.

To ensure safety and order, the parade route was cordoned off. Members of Matapat, an auxiliary force, were deployed along the entire stretch of Quirino Avenue.

The original route of the parade was only in the Malate area, on Adriatico, San Andres, M.H. del Pilar and Padre Faura streets. But the parade changed directions and passed Quirino Avenue all the way to Nagtahan.

Manila Mayor **Lito Atienza** led the three-kilometer procession with his wife; **Evelina "Beng" Atienza**, on board a pick-up.

The "Flores de Mayo" parade is meant to lure more people to the filmfest, which Mayor Atienza revived after a two-year hiatus.

Manila Councilor **Kim Atienza**, who helped organize the filmfest with his father, drove his trademark scooter and also supported the "Flores de Mayo."

Sharon stars in the Viva Films entry, "Magkapatid, with **Judy Ann Santos**.

Rudy and Ara Mina topbill Maverick Films' "Diskarte."

Joyce is paired for the first time with **Piolo Pascual** in Regal Films' "I Think I'm in Love."

Rufa Mae plays the title role in Neo Films' "Super B."

Customer satisfaction

I HAD two unexpected visitors at the INQUIRER Friday night. Hairstylist **Sam Santos** of Head Zone Salon at the Westin Philippine Plaza came with his woman boss, **Wenchi Salao**, managing director of the Head Zone chain of salons.

More than a month ago, I lost a pair of white gold earrings at Head Zone when I went there for my hair and makeup before attending a wedding. I wrote about the unfortunate incident here (Showbiz Tidbits—May 10, 2002).

I was convinced that I had left my earrings in the parlor, but Wenchi vouched for the honesty of her staff. Apparently, Wenchi did not take the incident sitting down. She made a thorough investigation in the salon, even after she had apologized to me and offered to pay for my earrings.

"I consulted my husband on what to do," Wenchi told me. "*Kulang na lang magdala ako ng NBI sa* salon and subject everyone to a lie detector test."

When Wenchi went to the INQUIRER last Friday, it was to give me back my earrings. I was stunned but at the same time very thankful.

"It was embarrassing to admit that you lost your earrings in our parlor, but I wanted to prove that we could give them back to you," Wenchi said. "I wanted to get to the bottom of it because you said you were sure you lost them in the parlor."

It turned out that a female junior hairstylist, who had been employed for only a few days when I went there, had taken my earrings after I had left them on the counter. That same girl had offered me a glass of iced tea. Wenchie said the girl admitted that she took the earrings because she wanted to give her mother more money, but that she started having sleepless nights after Wenchi started the investigation.

Wenchi said she fired the girl immediately.

I'd like to believe that the girl does not habitually take what is not hers and that she really needed the money for her mother.

I appreciate very much Head Zone's efforts to recover my earrings.

"We want our customers to be satisfied with our services," Wenchi said.

Suggestive billboard

DRIVING up the Magallanes Interchange to Alabang from Manila one night when traffic was a little slow, I was distracted by a huge Guess Jeans billboard which stood beside **KC Concepcion**'s Human billboard. The Guess billboard was rather suggestive, showing a man on top of a woman. The couple is kissing on the sand.

When I mentioned the billboard to a friend who's also a mom like me, she said she remembered it and she recalled how her five-year-old daughter asked her after they passed the billboard, "Mommy, are they kissing?"

I don't know if any agency reviews and approves billboards put up around Metro Manila. If movie billboards need a permit from the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB), shouldn't other kinds of billboards be reviewed, too?

'Illusione' encore at Star Theater

AFTER a record-breaking run at Onstage in Greenbelt early this year, Bahaghari Productions brings back the music, magic and fantasy of "Illusione" in the encore at the newly opened Star Theater at the CCP Complex.

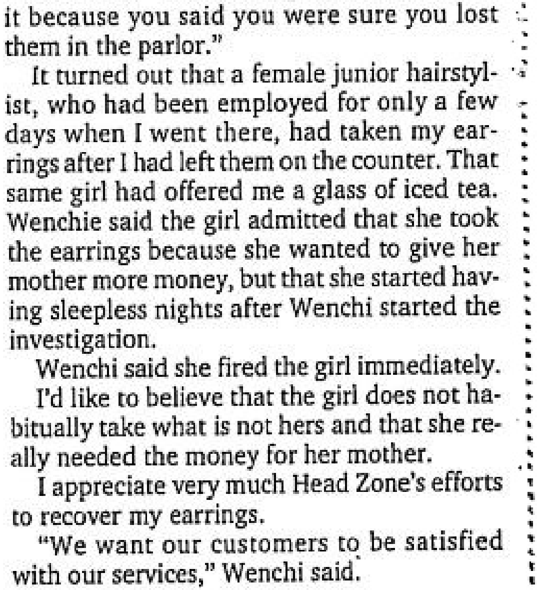
Dubbed by many as the most daring and spectacular production ever to hit the local theater scene, "Illusione" captivated audiences with its dazzling display of lights and costumes in scintillating production numbers that showcased some of the finest impersonators in the country.

Among the most applauded numbers were the Black divas medley which featured hairstylist James Cooper as Diana Ross, the hilarious "Swan Lake" featuring noted choreographer Douglas Nierras as Odette, the Broadway suite with excerpts from musicals like "Pippin," "Sweet Charity," "Gypsy," "Mama Mia," "Sunset Boulevard" and "Hello Dolly."

"Illusione" encore starts its run Aug. 16. Other show dates are Aug. 17, 18, 23, 24, 25, 30, 31 and Sept. 1.

The show will also be staged in Davao City on Aug. 2, 3 and 4; Cebu City on Aug. 9 and 10; and Pampanga on Sept. 6 and 7.

Interested block buyers may get in touch with Bahaghari Productions at 687-0990 or 687-1281.



'OLIVER TWIST'

"Lord of the Rings" star Elijah Wood and Academy Award winner Richard Dreyfuss star in the Walt Disney TV production of "Oliver Twist," which airs 7:30 p.m. on June 4 on "Wonderful World of Disney." The movie is based on Charles Dickens' famous book about an orphaned boy set in the tumultuous and colorful world of 19th century England. Others in the cast are British actor Alex Trench, David O'Hara, Antoine Byrne, Anthony Finagan, Olivia Caffey and Lisa Dwan.

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YOUR FATHER. THERE IS NO ONE IN THE WORLD QUITE LIKE HIM. SURELY HE DESERVES MORE THAN JUST THE USUAL CARD-AND-TIE PRESENT. ON HIS SPECIAL DAY, GIVE HIM A GIFT THAT IS AS UNIQUE AS HE IS.

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FATHER'S DAY PROMO

SO THIS FATHER'S DAY, LET HIM KNOW THAT YOU'RE SIMPLY GRATEFUL AND PROUD JUST TO CALL HIM YOUR FATHER.
FOR MORE DETAILS, VISIT OR CALL ANY OF OUR BRANCHES.

RATES ARE VAT EXCLUSIVE AND APPLY ONLY ON THE JUNE 16 ISSUE.

PROMO MECHANICS

1. For every P200 worth of ad placement booked starting June 1, 2002 until June 15, 2002 for the Inquirer Classifieds Father's Day Special Section on June 16, 2002, the customer is entitled to receive one (1) raffle coupon.
2. Fill up raffle coupon with your name, address, tel. no., affix signature and your father's name, and drop in drop boxes located at Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces cor. Yague & Mascardo Sts., 1231 Makati City.
3. Entries must be received by 5:00 pm of June 20, 2002 to qualify for the raffle draw during which 5 fathers/winners will each win gift certificates from Rustan's worth PHP 1,000.00.
4. The raffle draw will be held on June 24, 2002 at 3:00 pm at the PDI office in the presence of an official DTI representative.
5. An individual may send more than one entry but can only win once in the raffle draw.
6. GCs are not convertible to cash.
7. Raffle draw winners will be notified by phone and registered mail and their names will be announced via print ads.
8. Winners can claim their GCs at the PDI office upon presentation of the notification letter and a valid ID.
9. GCs not claimed within 60 days from receipt of notification will be forfeited in favor of PDI with prior approval from DTI.
10. Employees and staff of PDI, their advertising agency and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promotion.
11. Promo is valid only in GMA. Gift Certificates are valid for one year and are acceptable at all branches.

Sample Ads

Happy Father's Day Daddy!
Love,
Gabby,
Mike,
Isa,
Johnny,
Marla

To my Daddy, Nicko
Someday I'll make you proud of me, just as I am of you. I love you.
HAPPY FATHER'S DAY DADIDA!
From your honey pie,
AUDREY

size: 1 col x 4 cm
cost: P560 vat inclusive

Happy Father's Day Papa! Thank you for everything. We love you. *Moreen & Matt*

size: 3 lines
cost: P165 vat inclusive

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER MessageBoard
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Stars as scapegoats

Nestor U. Torre

ENTERTAINMENT celebrities have always served as handy scapegoats for society's ills. The rest of the populace may be engaging in the same sins and vices, but people get really exercised over them when it's revealed that some show biz stars have been indulging in them.

We know, of course, that this isn't the case at all. These vices are by no means exclusive to the members of the entertainment industry, and non-show biz types indulge in them too, albeit away from the glare of publicity.

The latest instances of show biz "scapegoating" include reports that "most" celebrities are drug addicts and prostitutes.

The current "drug of choice" is Ecstasy, and stars are supposed to be taking it as though there were no tomorrow, so they can stay "up" for days on end while they're fulfilling their numerous show biz commitments.

The "reports" make for good copy, but show biz insiders debunk at least some of them by pointing out that the biz is in the doldrums these days, so many performers have little to do.

Why, then, would "most" of them need to be high so they can continue working for days to comply with their show biz commitments?—*What* commitments?

It's true that some show biz people take drugs, but to require all members of the entertainment industry to subject themselves to drug tests would be discriminatory.

Then there's the charge that "most" public performers are also private performers, or prostitutes. One exposé purported to be based on a source who had himself paid for his pleasurable encounters with "many" top sexy actresses. However, when he was required to prove his allegations, it turned out that he had dallied with *male* pay-for-play actors!

As for those "top sexy actresses," all he could provide was second-hand information about stars who got from P50,000 to P120,000 per steamy private session with unnamed "politicians and wealthy businessman."

The source mentioned the names of some of the sexy actresses allegedly involved, but these were bleeped out on TV, so the "revelation" turned out to be a double-dud.

Again, it's true that *some* stars prostitute themselves, but so do *some* members of the general population. Why should show biz call girls and boys get the brunt of society's ire over the non-celebrity types?

One reason cited is the fact that, as public personalities, stars have the duty to act as role models for the rest of the populace, and to help set the moral tone for the country.

That sounds good, but the trouble is, everything is voluntary in this regard. Some stars will embrace this responsibility, while others will scorn it. Can compliance be legislated in this regard? Not likely.

Another view of the situation would ask: why are media and the general public so interested in stars' vices? If this interest weren't so intense, those stellar vices wouldn't be exposed so luridly, and stars wouldn't come off as such bad role models for the rest of the ostensibly squeaky-clean population.

If we lessened our avid and sometimes even pathological interest in gossip, reports about the bad things stars do would cease to be so sellable, and irresponsible stars would no longer exert such a negative influence on the country.

Finally, why are we so interested in stars' vices, and not in the good things that some of them do? Some stars are good role models, but their positive behavior and accomplishments aren't reported on and talked about, so their influence is minimal.

If we're so concerned about the way that show biz stars are leading us to hell in a hand basket, why don't we focus on the good stars instead, to help balance the grim picture?

Boob-tube booboos

HOST: How is your farm doing these days?

Guest: Oh, we have made many improvements. We now have many ripe mango trees!

(Hey, that's really something . . .)

* * *

Host: What do you think keeps us from progressing as a nation?

Guest: It's our envy of other people's success. We cut each other down, so we don't progress as nation. It's one thing, we can definitely do without with!

(*Sayang*, you were doing so well . . .)

* * *

Host: How is Tourism doing so far?

Guest: As far as figures of arrivals, tourism is around two million a year 2000!

(Huh ?!)

OWNERS of Amneshox Bar in Malate.

Amneshox Bar opens in Malate

AMNESHOX Bar along M.H. del Pilar st. in Malate, is a new place for the young and the young-at-heart.

Amneshox is a one-stop entertainment center where one can dance and feel the beat of the live grand performances. Or one can join the wacky group of stand-up comedians and sing popular tunes.

There are also fully air-conditioned KTV rooms at Amneshox. Happy hours are from 6 to 8 p.m.

Amneshox Bar is owned and managed by the Executives and Professionals Group Inc. Five owners are medical practitioners—Angelo Hubert Daez, Dennis Littaua, Ruel Aquino, Louie Chua and Angelo Monroy.

Other members of the corporation are Meeks Martin, Rosemarie Dacuycuy, Brenda Nieva, Carmelita Bigabal, Charito Lontoc, Wilnora Cavili and Fidel "Boying" Villanueva (president).

For details, call Jolo or Dennis at 524-8490.

'Boom' tickets now on sale

TICKETS to Jonathan Larson's musical, "Tick, Tick Boom" which will open in Manila on July 26, are now available at Atlantis Productions (892-7078) or Ticket World (891-5610).

Atlantis Productions, which also mounted Larson's phenomenal musical, "Rent," in Manila and Singapore, got the green light from the Larson family last November to stage "Tick, Tick Boom," which enjoyed a successful and critically acclaimed off-Broadway run last year.

In Manila, "Tick, Tick Boom" will go onstage at the RCBC Theater in Makati City.

The musical won the Outer Critics Circle award and is nominated for seven Drama Desk awards.

Starring in the musical are Jett Pangan of The Dawn and "Rent" veterans Bituin Escalante and Michael de Mesa. Bobby Garcia directs.

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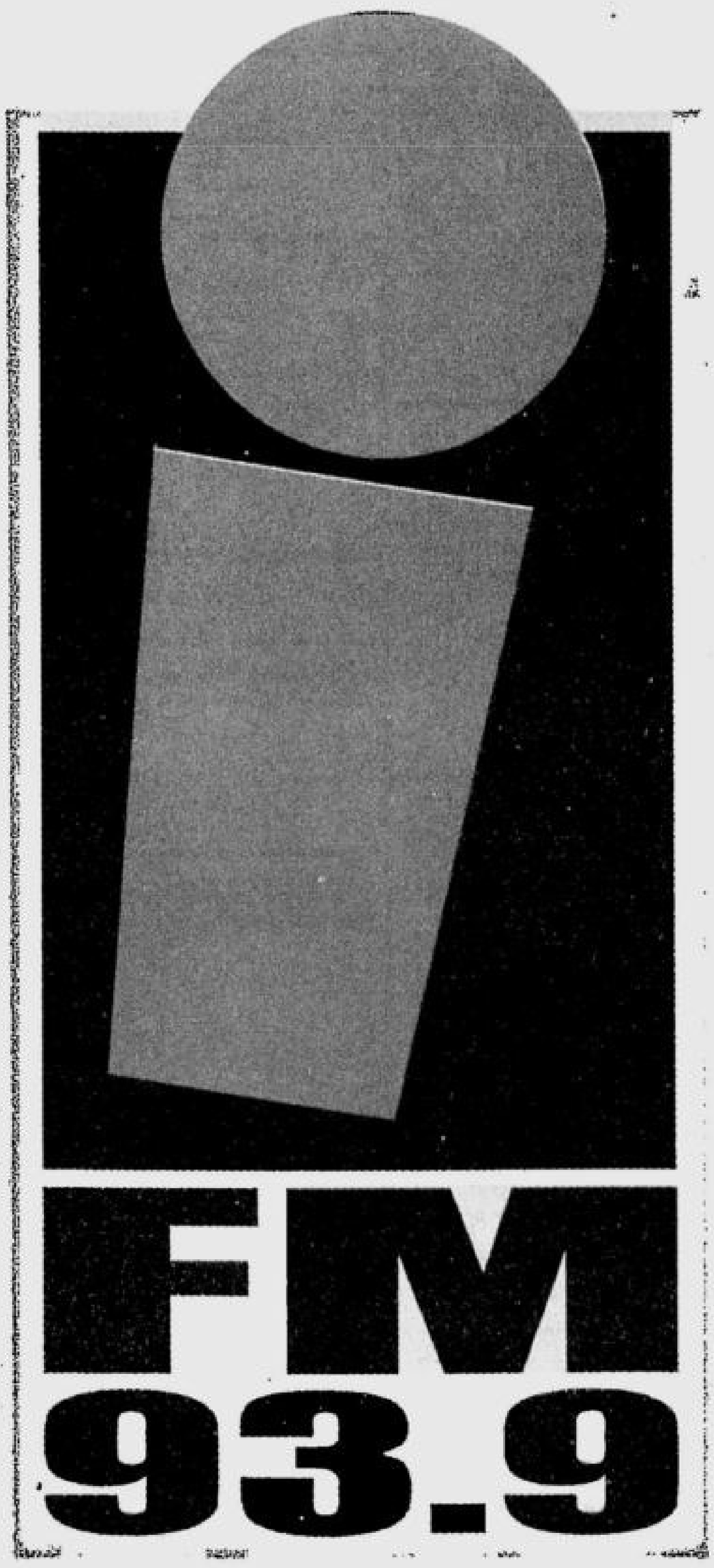
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8 40 DAYS 40 NIGHTS

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1 SPIDERMAN
2 40 DAYS 40 NIGHTS
3 RESIDENT EVIL
4 RESIDENT EVIL
5 PANIC ROOM
6 STAR WARS
7 AKALA MO
8 DRAGONFLY
9 KILABOT AT KEMBOT
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11 BENEATH LOCHNESS
12 JIHAD WARRIOR

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4 SPIDER-MAN
5 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
6 JIHAD WARRIOR
7 DRAGONFLY
8 KILABOT AT KEMBOT
9 KILABOT AT KEMBOT
10 STAR WARS
11 AKALA MO
12 IN THE BEDROOM

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1 JIHAD WARRIOR
2 SPIDER-MAN
3 KILABOT AT KEMBOT
4 DRAGONFLY
5 40 DAYS 40 NIGHTS
6 RESIDENT EVIL
7 STAR WARS
8 PANIC ROOM
9 CLOSED
10 CLOSED
11 CLOSED
12 CLOSED

SM SOUTHMALL
8066888

1 40 DAYS 40 NIGHTS
2 SPIDER-MAN
3 RESIDENT EVIL
4 PANIC ROOM
5 IN THE BEDROOM
6 DRAGONFLY
7 KILABOT AT KEMBOT
8 STAR WARS
9 JIHAD WARRIOR
10 BENEATH LOCHNESS

SM CITY CEBU
2313876

1 SPIDER-MAN
2 SNOW DOGS
3 K-PAX
4 THE DEEP END
5 AKALA MO
6 JASON-X
7 KILABOT AT KEMBOT
8 STAR WARS

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1 THE DEEP END
2 CLOSED
3 SPIDER-MAN
4 RETURN TO NEVERLAND
5 KILABOT AT KEMBOT
6 STAR WARS
7 CLOSED
8 I AM SAM

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1 STAR WARS
2 BENEATH LOCHNESS
3 SPIDER-MAN
4 AKALA MO
5 7 DAYS TO LIVE
6 KILABOT AT KEMBOT

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
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1 DRAGONFLY
2 RESIDENT EVIL
3 KILABOT AT KEMBOT
4 PANIC ROOM

SM CINEMA GUADALUPE
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1 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1 RESIDENT EVIL
2 JIHAD WARRIOR
3 AKALA MO
4 KILABOT AT KEMBOT

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998

1 SHOWTIME
2 KILABOT AT KEMBOT
3 STAR WARS
4 7 DAYS TO LIVE
5 I AM SAM
6 SNOW DOGS

SM BICUTAN

1
2
3
4

SOON TO OPEN!
4 NEW
STATE-OF-THE-ART
VISION & SOUND

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

1
2
3
4

SOON TO OPEN!
4 NEW
STATE-OF-THE-ART
VISION & SOUND

THE PODIUM

16 ADB Avenue Ortigas Center Mandaluyong City

1 RESIDENT EVIL
2 PANIC ROOM

W/ LATE NIGHT SCREENING ON WEEKENDS 6389781-85

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

For screening times, call 729-7777.
Schedules are subject to change without prior notice.

AYALA CINEMAS NOW SHOWING

G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 DRAGONFLY (Advance Screening)	1 RESIDENT EVIL	1 STARWARS: EPISODE 2	1 STARWARS: EPISODE 2 12:20, 3:00, 5:40, 8:20, 11:00	1 STAR WARS: EPISODE 2
2 STAR WARS: EPISODE 2	2 DRAGONFLY (Advance Screening)	2 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS	2 PANIC ROOM 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20	2 RESIDENT EVIL
3 KILABOT AT KEMBOT	3 STAR WARS: EPISODE 2 11:50, 2:30, 5:10, 7:50, 10:30	3 PANIC ROOM	DRAGONFLY (Advance Screening)	3 PANIC ROOM
4 RESIDENT EVIL	4 JIHAD WARRIOR	MARTIN NIEVERA BACK ONSTAGE 9:00 PM June 8, 14, 15, 21, 22, 28 & 29	40 DAYS& 40 NIGHTS 12:25, 2:35, 4:45, 6:55, 9:05, 11:15	4 DRAGONFLY (Advance Screening)
	5 SPIDER-MAN		RESIDENT EVIL 12:25, 2:35, 4:45, 6:55, 9:05, 11:15	5 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
	6 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS			
	7 PANIC ROOM			

MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS) RESIDENT EVIL
2 (SDDS) SPIDERMAN
3 (DTS) STARWARS
4 GOLD (DTS) STARWARS
5 GOLD (DOLBY) PANIC ROOM
6 GOLD (SDDS) 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
7 GOLD (DOLBY) DRAGONFLY
8 AKALA MO
9 KILABOT AT KEMBOT
10 JIHAD WARRIOR

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1 RESERVE
2 LIGAYA, PANTASYA . .
3 (DTS) RESERVE
4 RESERVE
5 BENEATH LOCHNESS
6 (DTS) RESERVE
Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3274

1 KILABOT AT KEMBOT
2 JIHAD WARRIOR
3 PAGSALUHAN NATIN

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724,4986

1 KILABOT AT KEMBOT
2 JIHAD WARRIOR
3 RESIDENT EVIL
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) STARWARS
5 PAGSALUHAN NATIN

METROPOLIS star
tel 850.4285

1 RESIDENT EVIL
2 LIGAYA, PANTASYA . .
3 KILABOT AT KEMBOT
4 DRAGONFLY
5 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
6
7
8

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) TEL. 751-3010 TO 13

1 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 AKALA MO
2 SPIDER-MAN

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC
tel 930.9515

1 KILABOT AT KEMBOT
2
3

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1 LIGAYA, PANTASYA NG BAYAN
A

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE
3 LIGAYA, PANTASYA NG BAYAN
4

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY) JIHAD WARRIOR
2
3
4 PANIC ROOM
5 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
6 KILABOT AT KEMBOT
7 (DTS) STAR WARS
8 (SDDS) DRAGONFLY
9 (DOLBY) RESIDENT EVIL

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2 KILABOT AT KEMBOT

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1 KILABOT AT KEMBOT
2 JIHAD WARRIOR
3 KILABOT AT KEMBOT
4 (SDDS) DRAGONFLY
5 PANIC ROOM
6 (DOLBY) RESIDENT
7 (DTS) STAR WARS
8 PAGSALUHAN NATIN
9 LIGAYA PANTASYA . . .

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS) RESERVE
2 RESERVE
3 RESERVE
4 PANIC ROOM
5 (SDDS) STAR WARS
6 KILABOT AT KEMBOT
7 (DOLBY) DRAGONFLY
8 RESIDENT EVIL

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1 KILABOT AT KEMBOT
2 DRAGONFLY
3 (DTS) RESIDENT EVIL
4 PAGSALUHAN NATIN
5 (SDDS) JIHAD WARRIOR

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1 KILABOT AT KEMBOT

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1 KILABOT AT KEMBOT

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson KILABOT AT KEMBOT
Lords PAGSALUHAN NATIN
Jennet LIGAYA PANTASYA . . .

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1 KILABOT AT KEMBOT
2 JIHAD WARRIOR
3 RESIDENT EVIL

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY) KILABOT AT KEMBOT
2 PAGSALUHAN NATIN
3 RESERVE
4 JIHAD WARRIOR
5 LIGAYA, PANTASYA . . .

New Divisoria Mall DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1
2
3
4
5
6

FRC Cinema
Talaba Bacoor Cavite

1
2

Berma
tel 879.2029

1 KILABOT AT KEMBOT
2 PAGSALUHAN NATIN

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1
2

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1 KILABOT AT KEMBOT
2 AKALA MO
3 (DTS) RESIDENT EVIL

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 KILABOT AT KEMBOT
2 (DTS) AKALA MO
3 (DOLBY) STAR WARS
4 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1 KILABOT AT KEMBOT
2 (DOLBY) RESIDENT EVIL
3 (DTS) STAR WARS
4 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1 KILABOT AT KEMBOT
2 STAR WARS
3 SOON TO OPEN
4 SOON TO OPEN

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1 AKALA MO
2 KILABOT AT KEMBOT
3 (DOLBY) BLADE- 2
4 (DTS) STAR WARS

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS) KILABOT AT KEMBOT
2 FRUIT IS SWELLING
3 LIGAYA PANTASYA . . .
4 (DTS) JIHAD WARRIOR

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY) STARWARS
2 KILABOT AT KEMBOT
3 (DTS) 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
4 BENEATH LOCHNESS
5 AKALA MO

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1 KILABOT AT KEMBOT
2 40 DAYS-40 NIGHTS
3 RESIDENT EVIL

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249-2558

1 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
2 KILABOT AT KEMBOT
3 BENEATH LOCHNESS

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1 STARS WARS
2 SPIDER-MAN
3 SANA TOTOO NA

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1
2
3

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS) KILABOT AT KEMBOT
2 (DTS) RESERVE

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1 KILABOT AT KEMBOT
2 STAR WARS
3 AKALA KO

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 DEEP END
2 SPIDERMAN
3 JASON-X
4 AKALA KO

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

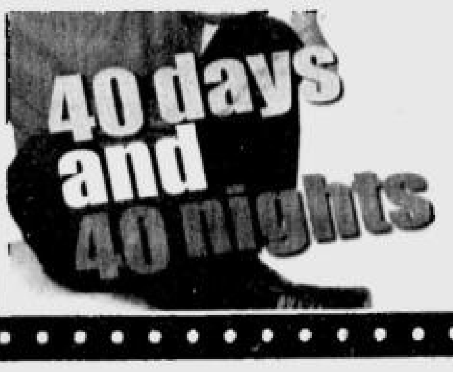
1 (DOLBY EX) JASON-X
2 AKALA MO
3 (DTS) 7 DAYS TO LIVE
4 KILABOT AT KEMBOT

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY dts SDDS

THX
CMG INTERNATIONAL

PREMIERE CINEMA NOW SHOWING



MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS

@ Robinsons Malls

NOW SHOWING

Galleria
632- 9115- 16
633- 7641 loc. 279

1 THX STAR WARS 2
2 RESIDENT EVIL
3 SPIDER-MAN
4 JIHAD WARRIOR
5 PANIC ROOM
6 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
7 IN THE BEDROOM
8 SPIDER-MAN
9 KILABOT AT KEMBOT
10 BENEATH LOCHNESS

Ermita
536 -7809- 12

1 STAR WARS 2
2 SPIDER-MAN
3 KILABOT AT KEMBOT
4 40 DAYS 40 NIGHTS
5 JIHAD WARRIOR
6 PANIC ROOM
7 RESIDENT EVIL

Metro East -
Marcos hway 682- 8193 / 8280

1 JIHAD WARRIOR
2 STAR WARS 2
3 STAR WARS 2
4 PANIC ROOM
5 SPIDER-MAN
6 40 DAYS 40 NIGHTS
7 RESIDENT EVIL
8 KILABOT AT KEMBOT

Novaliches
935- 3229 - 30

1 STAR WARS 2
2 PANIC ROOM
3 AKALA MO
4 SPIDER-MAN
5 RESIDENT EVIL
6 40 DAYS 40 NIGHTS
7 JIHAD WARRIOR
8 KILABOT AT KEMBOT

Imus
471- 8188 / 875- 3838

1 STAR WARS 2
2 PANIC ROOM
3 40 DAYS 40 NIGHTS
4 RESIDENT EVIL
5 KILABOT AT KEMBOT
6 JIHAD WARRIOR

Bacolod
441- 0453 / 0459

1 STAR WARS 2
2 SHOWTIME
3 RETURN TO NEVERLAND
4 K-PAX
5 I AM SAM
6 AKALA MO

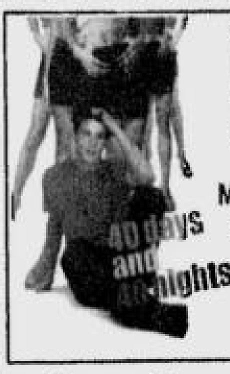
Iloilo
336- 8077 - 78

1 STAR WARS 2
2 RETURN TO NEVERLAND
3 I AM SAM
4 KILABOT AT KEMBOT
5 DEEP END
6 SPIDER MAN

Star Mills-
Sn Fernando, Pamp 875- 1927
961-5318 / 5270

1 DEATH TO SMOOCHY
2 SPIDER-MAN
3 STAR WARS 2
4 BENEATH LOCHNESS
5 KILABOT AT KEMBOT
6 STAR WARS 2

malabon citisquare-
soon to open.

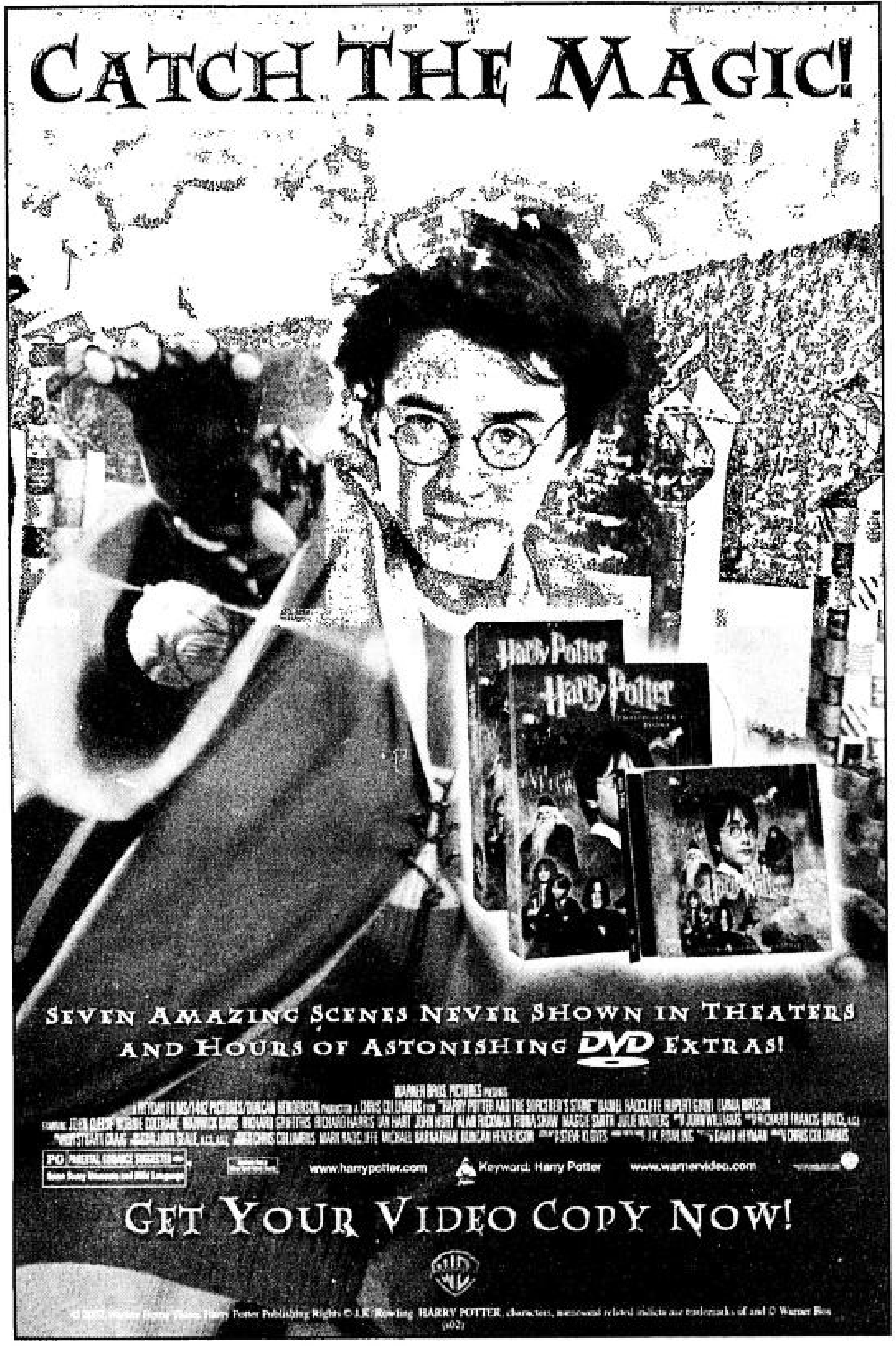


Late Night Screening
on
May 31- June 1, 2002
Friday & Saturday -
11:00 p.m. @
Robinsons
Movieworld
Galleria

how-2-reach-us:
email: htc@netasia-mnl.net
http://www.robinsonsmovieworld.com
call-a-movie 536- 7812

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

'ATTAGIRL' STAR AT ATC
Andrea del Rosario, star of the ABS-CBN sitcom "Attagirl," graces the grand opening of Efren's Magic Billiard Hall and Paeng's Town Center Bowling at Alabang Town Center (ATC), the premier shopping and entertainment mall south of Manila. The newest billiard and bowling centers, owned and operated by the magician of Philippine billiards Efren "Bata" Reyes (left) and Paeng Nepomuceno, respectively, offer state-of-the-art sports and family entertainment venues for bowling and billiard enthusiasts. With them is ace billiards player Francisco "Django" Bustamante.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Keyword: Harry Potter
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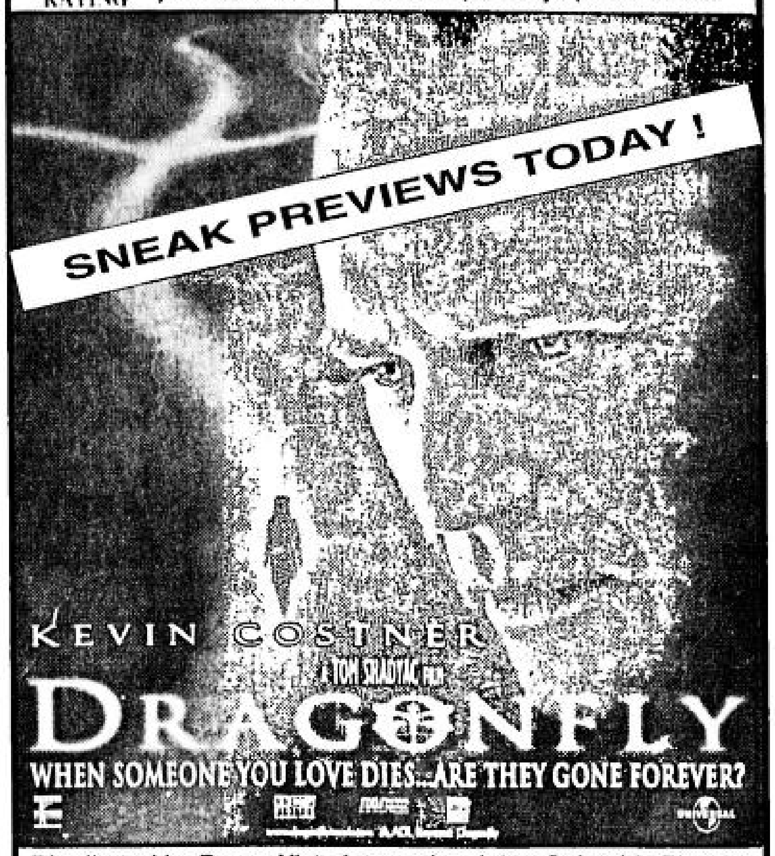
OPENS JUNE 12 !

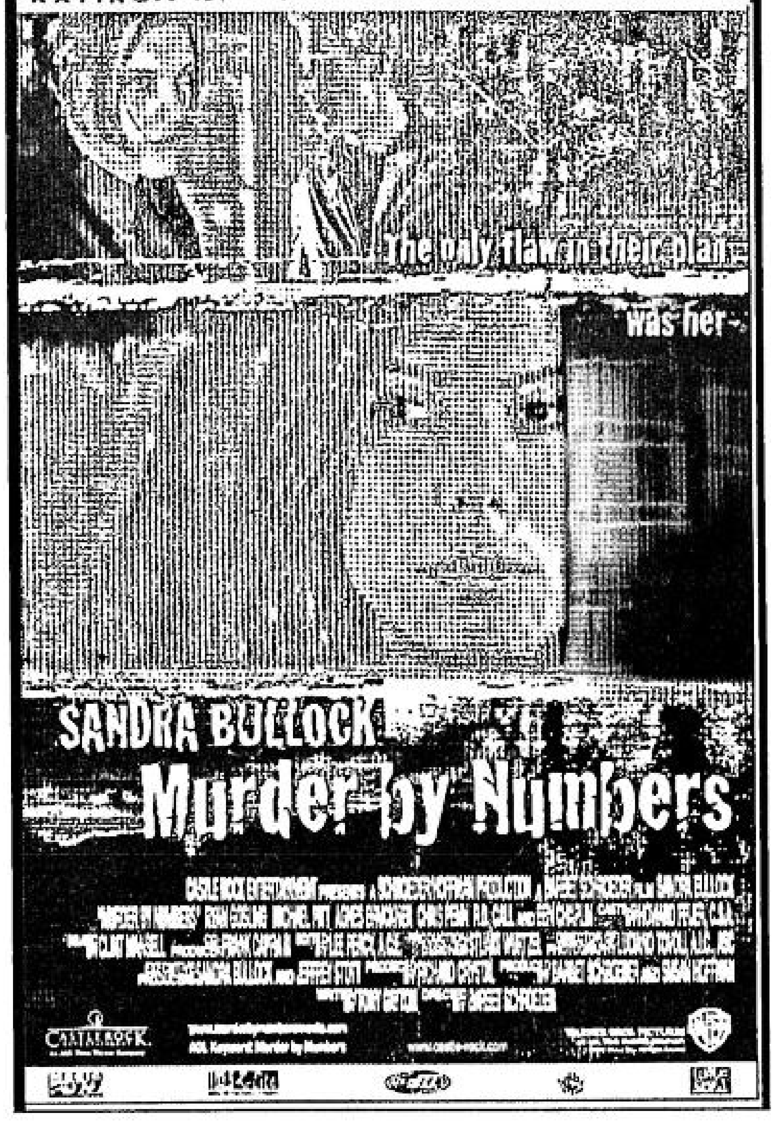
MTRCB RATING ▸ PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will be allowed in accompanied by a parent or adult.


SNEAK PREVIEWS TODAY !
KEVIN COSTNER
A TOM SHADYAC FILM
DRAGONFLY
WHEN SOMEONE YOU LOVE DIES...ARE THEY GONE FOREVER?

Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

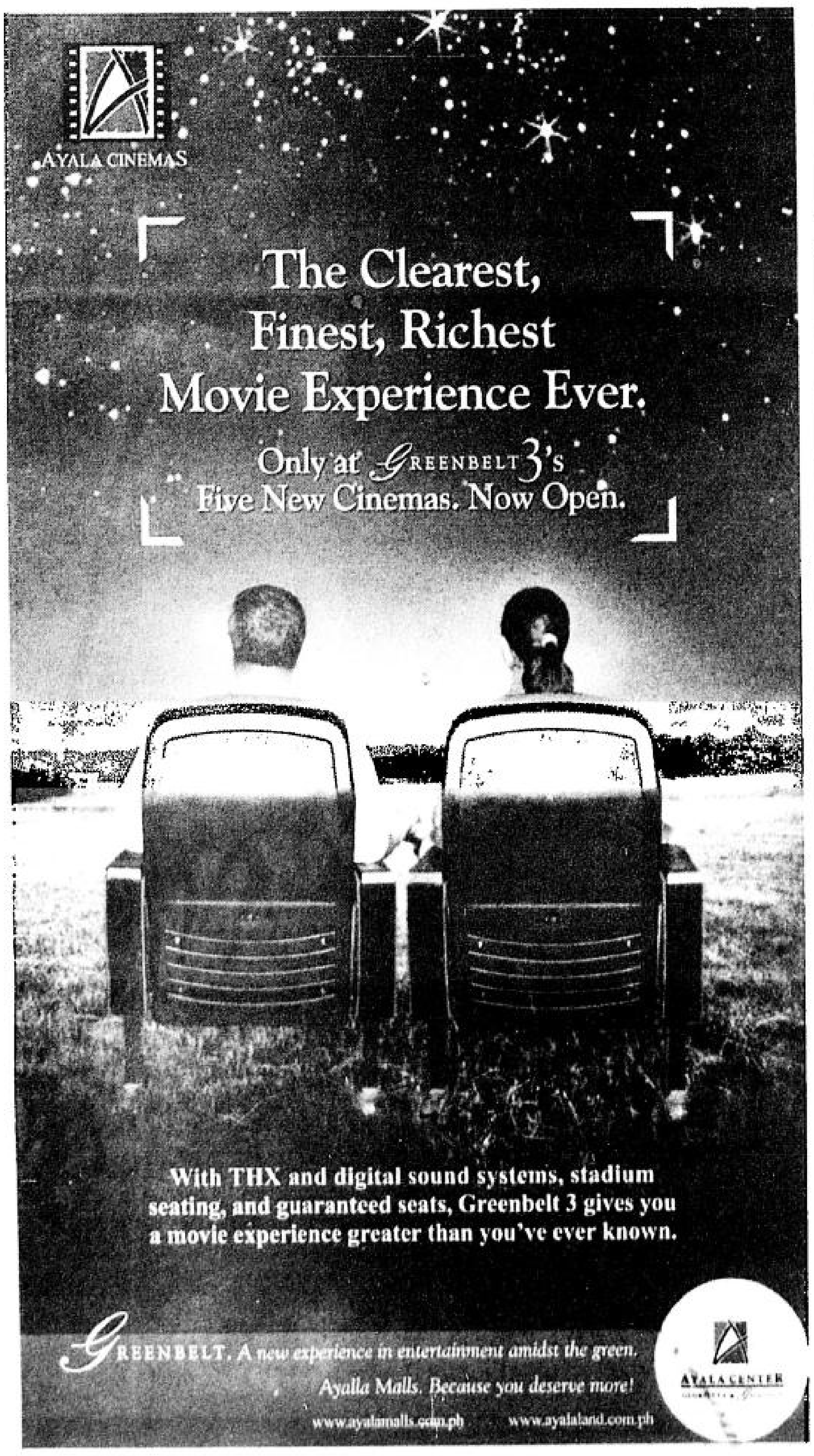
OPENS JUNE 5 !

MTRCB RATING R-18 | Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.


The only flaw in their plan
was her
SANDRA BULLOCK
Murder by Numbers

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	AKALA MO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	BENEATH LOCHNESS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	STAR WARS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	SPIDERMAN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	STAR WARS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	FRUIT IS SWELLING
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	DEATH TO SMOOCHY
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	SPIDERMAN
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	STAR WARS
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	BIBINGKA/LOVE ME TENDER
ODEON	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
ODEON-2	LIGAYA, PANTASYA...
ROBEN	PAGSALUHAN
TANDEM-1	ITLOG
TANDEM-2	IKA-7 GLORYA
TIMES	WE WERE SOLDIER / E.T.
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	PAGSALUHAN
REMAR	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
REMAR-2	PAGSALUHAN
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
B	LIGAYA, PANTASYA...
C	PAGSALUHAN
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED
CINEMA-2	STAR WARS: EPISODE 2
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
CINEMA-2	LIGAYA
CINEMA-3	PAGSALUHAN
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	STAR WARS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	STAR WARS
CINEMA-6	IN THE BEDROOM
CINEMA-7	AKALA MO
CINEMA-8	SPIDERMAN
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	JIHAD WARRIOR
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	PANIC ROOM
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	STAR WARS
CINEMA-12	40 DAYS...
CINEMA-14	RESIDENT EVIL
CINEMA-15	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	STAR WARS. EPISODE 2
CINEMA-2	40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
CINEMA-3	DRAGONFLY
CINEMA-4	RESIDENT EVIL
CINEMA-5	DEATH TO SMOOCHY
CINEMA-6	PANIC ROOM
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID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GREENBELT. A new experience in entertainment amidst the green.
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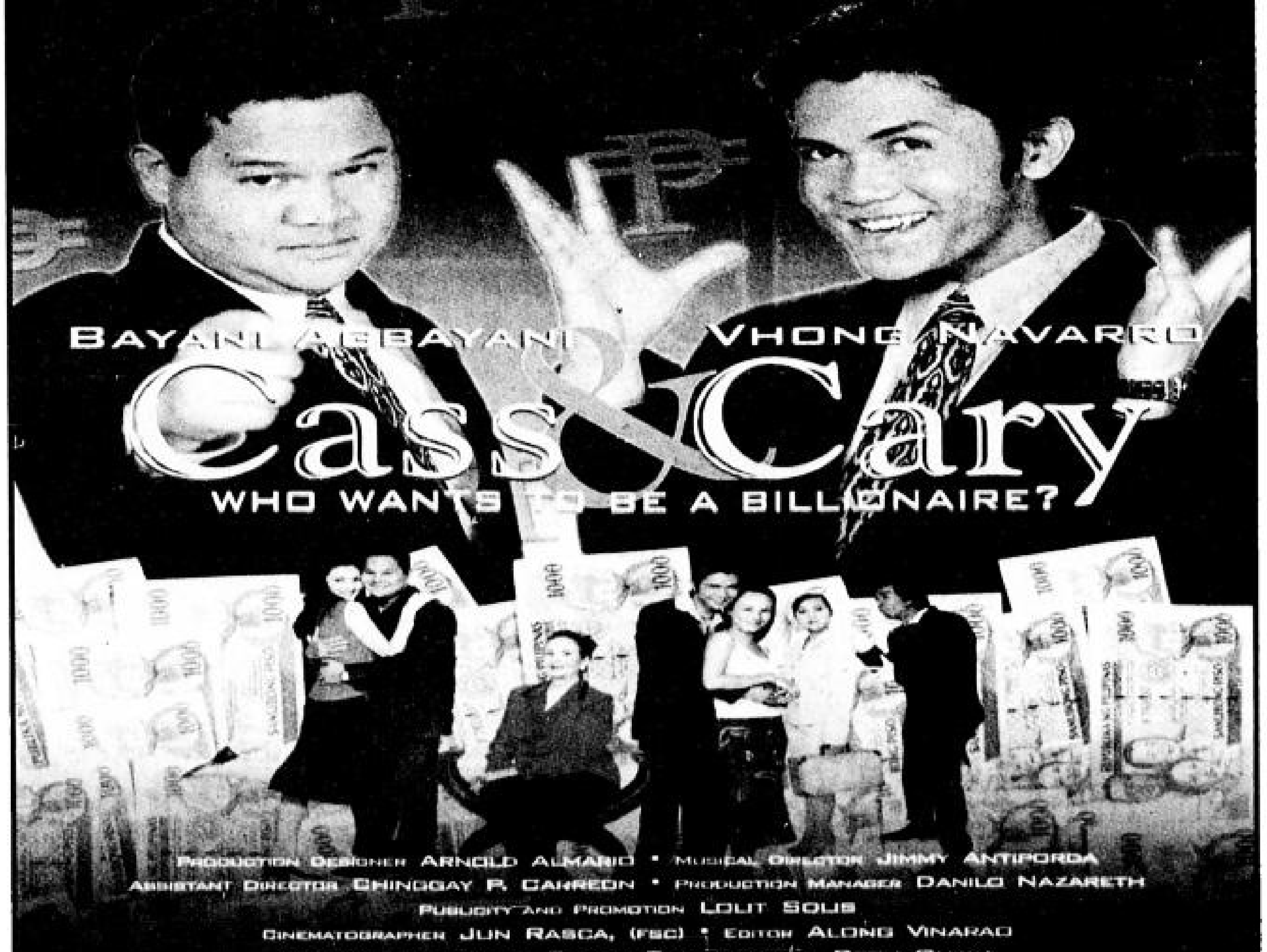
AYALA CENTER

OPENS WEDNESDAY
GALA PREMIERE TONIGHT 7:00 PM AT SM MEGAMALL CINEMA 9.

MTRCB RATING ▸ G General Patronage | ALL AGES ADMITTED

VIOLETT FILMS PRODUCTION
INITIAL PRESENTATION
MS. GLORIA ROMERO
CARMINA VILLARDEL • MATET DE LEON • GLADYS REYES
AND LONG MEJIA
SPECIAL PARTICIPATION OF
TONTON GUTIERREZ • RITA MAGDALENA • DICK ISRAEL


BAYANI AGBAYANI
VHONG NAVARRO
Cass & Cary
WHO WANTS TO BE A BILLIONAIRE?

PRODUCTION DESIGNER ARNOLD ALMARIO • MUSICAL DIRECTOR JIMMY ANTIPORDA
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR CHINGGAY P. CARREON • PRODUCTION MANAGER DANILO NAZARETH
PUBLICITY AND PROMOTION LOLIT SOLIS
CINEMATOGRAPHER JUN RASCA, (FSC) • EDITOR ALONG VINARAO
SUPERVISING PRODUCERS SOLITA CARREON AND BETH GUIWA
ASSOCIATE PRODUCERS ROMEO LL. SEVILLA AND MICHAEL C. SEVILLA
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER VIOLETA C. SEVILLA
WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY JOSE N. CARREON, DGPI
Violett
STARLIGHT FILMS RELEASE

ENTERTAINMENT

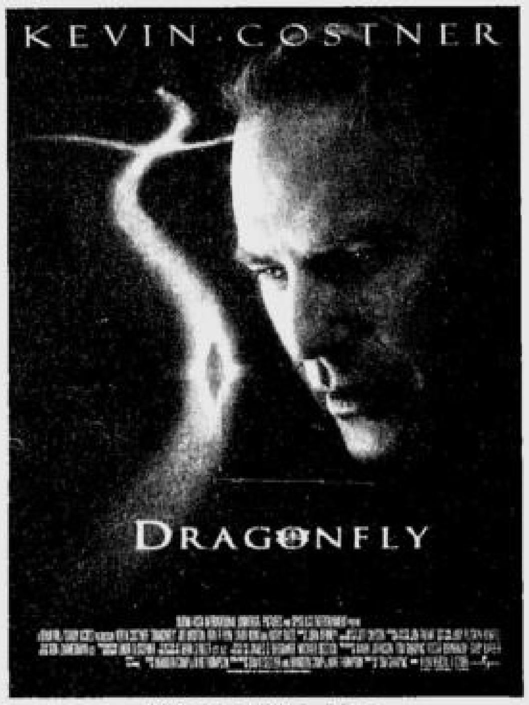
Editor **Louie C. Camino**

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

STAR WARS - GP 1:10, 4:00, 6:50, 9:40	**40 DAYS AND 40 NIGHTS - R18** 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50	**DRAGONFLY - P13** 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00
RESIDENT EVIL - P13 11:45, 1:40, 3:45, 5:50, 7:55, 10:00	**DEATH TO SMOOCHY - P13** 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45	**PANIC ROOM - R18** 12:50, 3:10, 5:30, 7:50, 10:10

MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI.

SEE IT FIRST!
SM CINEMA
SPECIAL SNEAK PREVIEW
June 3 - 4, 2002


KEVIN COSTNER
DRAGONFLY

MTRCB RATING: PG13
Tickets available at:
SM MANILA•MEGAMALL•CENTERPOINT•SUCAT
SOUTHMALL•FAIRVIEW•NORTH EDSA•BACOOR

Diana Ross enters California rehab

LOS ANGELES—Veteran pop diva Diana Ross has checked herself into a rehabilitation clinic to win her battle against drug and alcohol addiction, her spokesperson said.

Ross "voluntarily" entered the exclusive, expensive and very secluded Promises rehabilitation clinic in Malibu, California, "to clear up some personal issues before she starts on a summer tour in both the United States and abroad," an aide to the singer's spokesperson, Paul Bloch, confirmed. No details of the nature of Ross's addiction were provided.

"She wanted to be in great shape because she is someone who feels the sense of responsibility toward her family and her fans."

Ross, 58, is due to begin her world tour in Germany on June 26.

The ebony haired diva rose to superstardom as a member of the 1960s-era all-girl rhythm and blues group, The Supremes. *AFP*

'Nancy Drew' author dies

CLEVELAND, Ohio—Mildred Wirt Benson, the creator of the "Nancy Drew" mystery series that has inspired young women the world over for decades, died late Tuesday in Toledo, Ohio, hospital officials confirmed. She was 96.

Colleagues of Benson, who wrote the first 23 "Nancy Drew" mysteries under the pen name Carolyn Keene, said her death was characteristic of the feisty nonagenarian. *AFP*

THEATRE MALL
GREENHILLS
a landmark renovated!
DOLBY DIGITAL
NOW SHOWING

1	**40 DAYS AND 40 NIGHTS** 11:05, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50 R 18
2	**RESIDENT EVIL** 10:50, 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:40 P 13

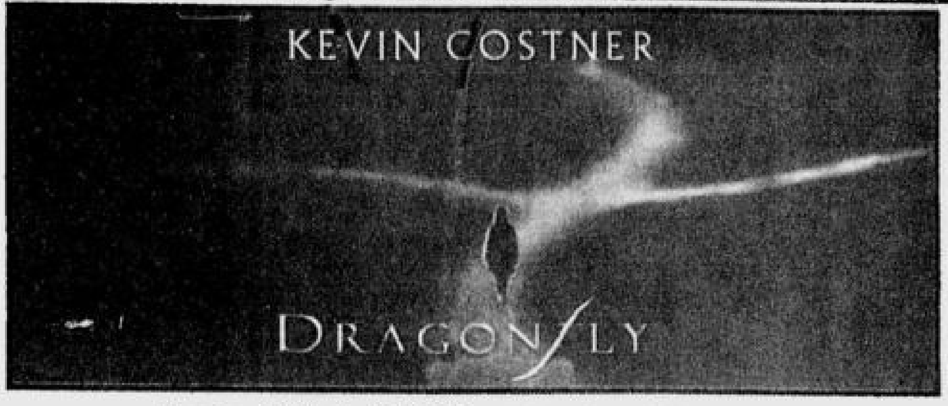
All Reserved Seating: P120.00
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

MUSIC MUSEUM

JUNE 1, 2002	RETROSPECT	9:00 PM
JUNE 8 & 15	REIGNE ON TOUR (Regine Velasquez)	9:00 PM

FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION PLS CALL [illegible]

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD SNEAK PREVIEW


KEVIN COSTNER
DRAGONFLY

June 3 & 4, 2002 - (Monday & Tuesday)
Galleria, Ermita, Imus,
Metro East- Pasig, Novaliches & Starmills- Pampanga
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG13 | REGULAR SCREENING BEGINS June 12, 2002. For inquiries please call 687-0593.

NOW ON IT'S 3RD WEEK!
MTRCB RATING ▶ G General Patronage | ALL AGES ADMITTED

"AN EXHILARATING TWO HOURS OF SERIOUS FUN."
–RICHARD CORLISS & JESS CAGLE, TIME MAGAZINE
STAR WARS
EPISODE II
ATTACK OF THE CLONES

6TH "VAN DAMME'S NO. 1" HIT DAY !!!

THE FILM YOU ALMOST FAILED TO SEE... AS HOT AS TODAY;S HEADLINES!!
MTRCB RATING ▶PG-13
FROM THE STREETS OF NEW YORK TO THE DOWNTOWN AND TUNNELS OF TEL AVIV, ISRAEL... VAN VAMME BATTLES AN ARMY OF MUSLIM REBELS WITH HIS FISTS, GUNS AND SWORDS!!!
HIS MISSION IS TO SAVE THE WORLD FROM AN OUTBREAK OF A HOLY WAR!
VAN DAMME
JIHAD WARRIOR
Also starring CHARLTON HESTON
SOFIA MILOS BEN CROSS
Solar FILMS INC.

the all-digital-sound
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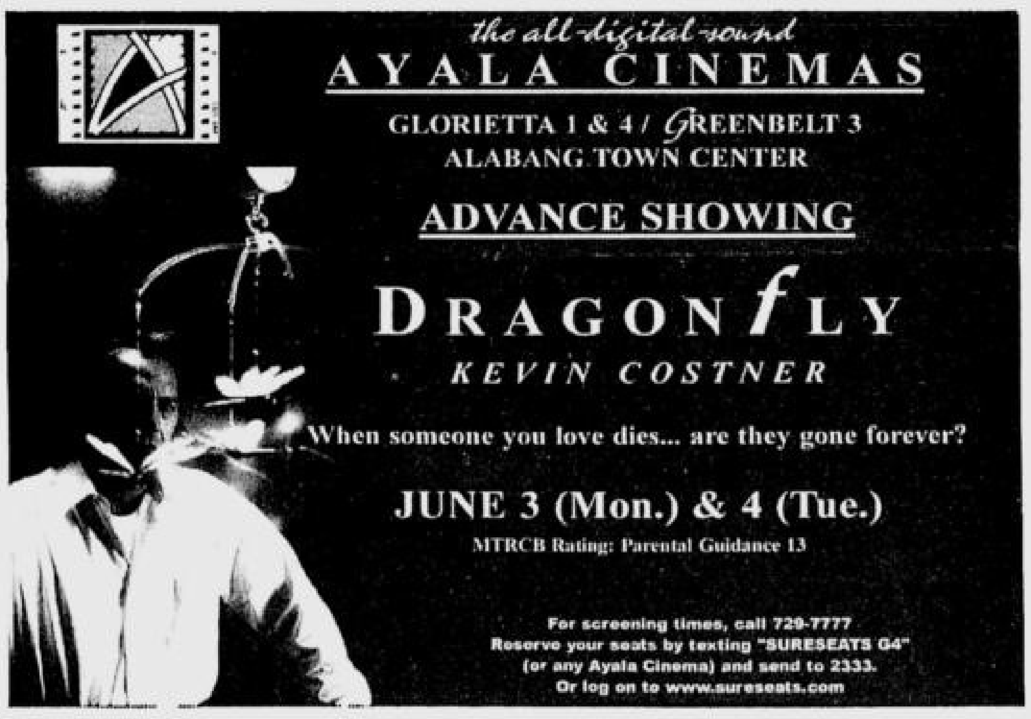

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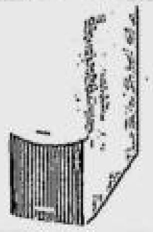
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MVP confronts First Pacific board on PLDT buyout today

BIR misses collection target by ₱30.7B
Page B2

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BOARD of First Pacific Co. Ltd. meets today in Hong Kong to get approval for the buyout by the Gokongwei group of its stakes in Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and Bonifacio Land Co.

However, top officials of First Pacific's subsidiaries in Manila led by no less than its managing chair, Manuel V. Pangilinan, will be there to block the deal. Pangilinan, or MVP to his colleagues, is presiding over the board meeting.

INQUIRER sources said that Pangilinan, also chief executive of PLDT and BLC parent firm Metro Pacific Corp., and a group of high-ranking executives headed for Hong Kong in what could be a bitter corporate squabble after the boards of both PLDT and MPC unanimously approved last week the filing of formal protests against the Gokongwei buyout.

Sources from the Pangilinan camp said the Manila contingent was determined to prevent a "railroading" by the First Pacific board of the Gokongwei-Salim deal, believing it would not be beneficial to the interests of both PLDT and MPC.

Otherwise, First Pacific, which is controlled by the Salim family of Indonesia, is already set to formally approve the twin deals after reaching an agreement in principle with the Gokongweis last week.

The INQUIRER has confirmed that the amounts involved were $600 million or about P700 per share for First Pacific's 24.4-percent stake in PLDT and a price equivalent to P16,000 per square meter for the stake inBLC, developer of the 150-hectare Fort Bonifacio Global City.

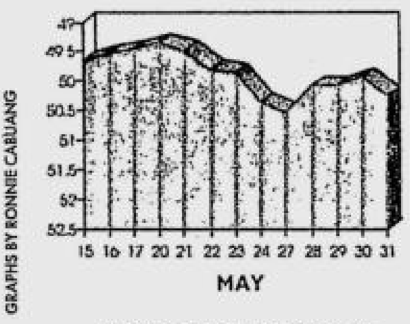
If approved, the group of taipan John Gokongwei Jr. will become the single biggest stockholder in PLDT with a 31.5-percent voting interest and his own telecommunications unit Digital Telecommunications Inc. will be folded into the local telecom giant. The taipan had agreed to buy out even the stake in BLC if only to take over PLDT.

MVP/ B3

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



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As of 5 p.m., May 31, 2002

¥ 123.96 = $1
As of 5 p.m., May 31, 2002

GOLD: $327.50/328.00
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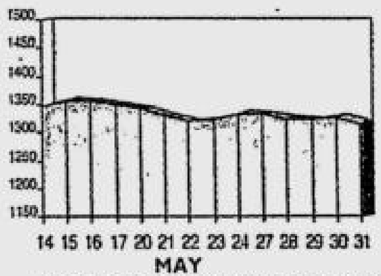
May 31, 2002

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B4)

PLDT bid seen boosting stocks

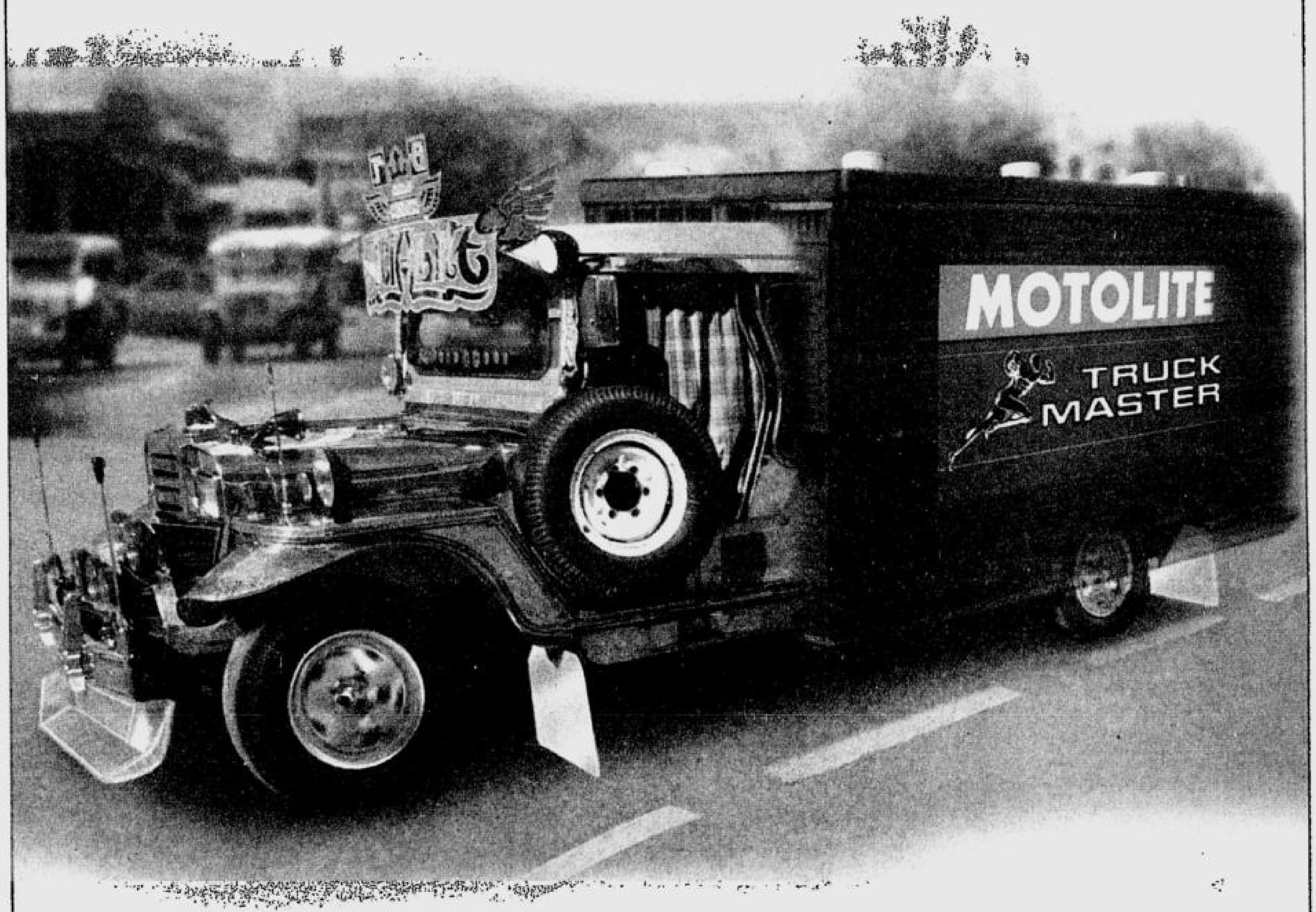
AFTER weeks of sluggish trading, the local stock market has found a hot catalyst in the buyout deal being hatched by the Gokongweis and First Pacific Co. Ltd. of Hong Kong over the latter's property and telecommunication interests in the Philippines.

Running stories and rumors on the deal brought back some excitement to the market last week, although the sharp upticks were limited only to the specific stocks involved in the deal.

The share price of Gokongweis' Digital Telecommunications Inc. surged by 35 percent last week while those of local telecom giant Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.

PLDT/ B4

TULOY-TULOY ANG PASADA. WALANG ABERYA!



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JANUARY-MAY PERIOD

BIR misses collection target by ₱30.7B

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE COLLECTION shortfall of the Bureau of Internal Revenue has reached P30.706 billion in the first five months of the year, or 356 percent more than the P6.729-billion deficiency it reported during the first quarter.

In April, which was tax-payment month, the BIR collected only P42.866 billion or P10.971 billion lower than its target of P53.838 billion while in May, collections reached only P24.229 billion or P13.005 billion short of the P37.234 billion target for the month.

The BIR, the agency that generates more than 80 percent of the government's budget, must raise P447.6 billion this year for the Macapagal administration to cap its budget deficit at P130 billion.

A government source said the dismal collection of the BIR would force the government to cut its expenditures aggressively or even come up with non-fiscal measures to support the budget similar to what Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho had planned but failed to implement last year.

The government must keep its deficit this year within target to prove to international investors that its fiscal management is on track in bringing the deficit down to zero by 2006. Last year, the fiscal gap reached P147 billion, or only slightly higher than the P145-billion target.

Camacho had tried to broker a P15-billion real estate sale last year between the Philippine Estates Authority and Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp.

The plan was for Pagcor to issue bonds to buy 60 hectares of PEA property along Roxas Blvd. and the proceeds of the sale would be remitted to the national government to prop up its revenue. Legal questions and ill market timing forced the government to cancel the transaction.

The BIR's collection in April and May was even lower by P10.725 billion and P4.209 billion compared with the same months last year. In January, the BIR revenue was also lower by P4.257 billion compared with last year.

It was only in February when the BIR collected P31 billion, which exceeded last year's collection by P10.641 billion and went more than the target of P27,79 billion for the month.

In the first five months, the BIR delivered P159.869 billion in revenues against the target of P190.575 billion. This was P7.274 billion lower compared to the same period in 2001.

The BIR had asked the inter-agency Development Budget Coordinating Council to reduce its full-year target by P24 billion, citing the much lower interest rates that affected its tax collection as one of the main reasons.

Last year, the DBCC had allowed the internal revenue agency to reduce its target by P20 billion to P388 billion when economic growth targets were also reduced.

The weak collection of the BIR and that of the Bureau of Customs, which incurred a shortfall of P2.455 billion, pushed the budget deficit in the first quarter to P61.208 billion or 15.6 percent more than the P52.933-billion target.

BIR/ B6

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Clark agency seeks write-off of ₱2.5-B centennial park debt

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

CLARK Development Corp. is seeking a write off of the government's P2.5 billion in liabilities in First Centennial Clark Corp. to boost its bid to attract major Hollywood and Philippine film makers to convert the sprawling white elephant project into a world-class studio and theme park.

CDC executive vice president and chief operating officer Victor Jose I. Luciano said his agency wanted to have a fresh start in rehabilitating and operating the Expo Filipino in order to attract private sector interest in the project.

Luciano said interest expenses on the government's P2.5 billion in liabilities in FCCC would easily eat up all the operating income to be derived from the Expo Filipino. He said it would be difficult to get a private investor in Expo Filipino if the government did not shoulder these interest expenses.

Luciano said CDC has been holding informal talks with a number of American movie outfits, including Universal Studios, interested in building production studios at the former American air force base. The Hollywood studios were apparently attracted by Clark's access and security as well as the large pool of English-speaking workers in the area.

Luciano said local film production outfits such as Viva Films had expressed interest in taking at least a portion of the sprawling Expo Filipino. Aside from the 216-hectare site of the Expo Filipino, FCCC has leasehold rights on 900 ha of property within the Clark special economic zone.

The state-owned National Development Co. had previously agreed to transfer its 60-percent equity in FCCC (the balance of 40 percent is owned by Asian Construction Development Corp.) to CDC, which was in a better position to take care of the maintenance of the previous centerpiece of the country's centennial celebration in 1998.

However, both parties have yet to settle whether the P2.5 billion in liabilities guaranteed by the government would also be transferred to CDC. NDC invested P1.377 billion in the project (P900 million in equity and P477 million in loans) and it borrowed P977 million from the Social Security System, Land Bank of the Philippines and the Government Service Insurance System.

The Expo Filipino has fallen into disrepair following President Estrada's order to close the theme park in 1999. Only its amphitheater, the Freedom Ring, has been partially preserved.

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Study backs SEC control over pre-need companies

THE PRE-NEED plan industry should remain under the supervision of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), according to the World Bank.

The significance of the WB suggestion comes on the heels of renewed proposals seeking to transfer the industry to the Insurance Commission (IC).

The multilateral lending agency said in a recent study, which provided a legal analysis of the pre-need industry, that the sector fell under "securities (and) not insurance."

It differentiated between the insurance and pre-need industries stating that "insurance depends on the occurrence of an unforeseen event while pre-need plans are triggered by events that are certain to occur."

It also cited the possible impact such a change might have on pre-need plan holders in the Philippines, estimated at more than 5 million.

Placing it under the IC, the study pointed out, "would stifle innovation and could freeze the industry" as the concept of full disclosure are foreign to the insurance commission, which tends to be very cautious, exercises greater control and tells companies how to operate.

It also cited "transition difficulties" that a change of supervision may encounter. "The transition from the SEC to the IC could involve a considerable period of adjustment and debugging," the study said. "The IC's current prescriptive approach would tend to inhibit its ability to regulate pre-need companies."

The World Bank study added that present SEC regulation "offers a workable structure for protecting investors if properly implemented." The SEC, the study noted, observes full disclosure and prudential standards that have been beneficial to the industry.

The country's 38-year-old pre-need industry has grown significantly in the past years, providing plan holders with a hedge against inflation. Total industry trust funds are placed at more than P20 billion.

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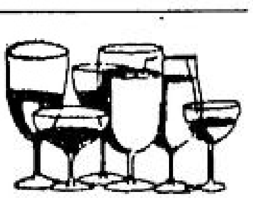

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

THE INTERTWINED fates of PLDT, Fort Bonifacio, and Manuel V. Pangilinan will be decided, and will probably unravel, in Hong Kong today.

The board of First Pacific Co., the parent company of the local Metro Pacific Group, will meet today to formally consider the buyout proposal struck by taipan John Gokongwei and the Salims, who also happen to be First Pacific's principals.

PLDT and Metro Pacific CEO Manuel V. Pangilinan was scheduled to fly to the Chinese territory yesterday to preside over the meeting as First Pacific executive chair.

According to the grapevine, the Salims of Indonesia now control only less than half of the publicly listed First Pacific, and that MVP has a number of allies in the 10-member board. Out of the 10, four seats are held by Indonesian nationals, plus two advisory positions, including that of its now-retired chair, Soedomo Salim.

In addition to the future of PLDT and the Metro Pacific Group, MVP's tenure will also be decided by the First Pacific board after his decision to oppose the Salim-Gokongwei deal and cast his lot with the PLDT management and their counter-proposal.

MVP assumed the top position in First Pacific in February 1999, when Salim, now 85, bypassed his son, Anthoni, at 52 three years younger than MVP, and handed over to the Filipino finance whiz the reins of the finance and investment company that MVP and the Indonesians founded in 1981.

From an obscure finance company, First Pacific grew into a regional trading/financial/manufacturing/telecom conglomerate, reaching its apex in 1997-98 when its net assets reached more than $2.2 billion.

At the end of 2001, the former Hong Kong heavyweight was but a shadow of its old self, battered by the Asian currency crisis and weighed down by foreign debts, its net asset base having shrunk to $201 million.

According to the grapevine, the younger Salim was forced to offer the crown jewels in the Philippines to Gokongwei after the Dutch ING Bank called in a $107-million loan, triggering the break between the heir-in-waiting and his ailing father's fair-haired boy.

TonyBoy resurgent

ASSUMING that he and First Pacific part ways today, MVP has managed to buy time and stay on as PLDT and Metro Pacific CEO even after Tuesday next week, when the two companies will hold their respective annual stockholders' meetings.

According to the grapevine, MVP's position is now more secure with PLDT after Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. decided to exercise its right of refusal over the PLDT shares that First Pacific wants to dispose of. (NTT has a 15-percent stake in PLDT, while First Pacific owns directly and indirectly about 24 percent of PLDT.)

At least that was the impression given by NTT to the PLDT board in a conference call Thursday, before Gokongwei and the younger Salim flew to Tokyo to meet with the NTT honchos on Friday.

According to the grapevine, PLDT chair Antonio Cojuangco Jr. has also secured a $100-million facility from JP Morgan to finance a management counter-offer to acquire the First Pacific stake in PITC, the private holding company that controls the crucial voting bloc in PLDT.

If the combined MVP-Cojuangco-NTT forces manage to thwart the Gokongwei bid for PLDT, then chances are Mr. John would also be forced to drop his bid to acquire Fort Bonifacio, since the taipan's buyout proposal was structured "all or nothing."

In any case, the power equation has already changed within PLDT. From a nominal chair, Cojuangco now looks more like a white knight to the besieged company that his late father helped acquired from the Americans and nearly lost to the Marcoses during the martial law years.

If, or is it when, the Cojuangcos reassume control over PLDT, how long would the honeymoon with MVP last? And whose asses will be kicked around this time?

And if TonyBoy reassumes command, could SGV, Jaguars, and bigger executive offices be far behind?

Heard through the grapevine

TAIPAN Henry Sy has approached Metro Pacific CEO Manuel V. Pangilinan and offered his help to resist a Gokongwei-takeover of Fort Bonifacio.

* * *

SON-OF-A-GUN. Wanted Presidential Adviser Gloria Tan-Climaco was supposed to be in San Francisco nursing a sick brother, not a sick "son" as was reported here Friday. The typo becomes all the more embarrassing considering that GTC is very much single.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

MVP confronts . . .

From page B1

"But the PLDT and MPC boards would not allow a takeover by the Gokongweis without putting up a fight, which sources said could reach the courts. Pangilinan is likewise backed by other groups with interests in PLDT, specifically Nippon Telegraph and Telephone of Japan (the second biggest stockholder with 15 percent), PLDT chair Antonio "TonyBoy" Cojuangco and even the Yuchengco camp, which had opposed the buy-in of the Salim group in 1998.

As of Saturday, Pangilinan's group was still finalizing a management buyout offer to counter the Gokongwei bid in PLDT. Earlier estimates said the group was offering P800 per share for PLDT to top Gokongwei's P700 per share bid, but other sources said "the numbers keep on changing." Other sources said the Yuchengcos were not likely to shell out money to join the bidding war but the hat was being passed around and other groups had committed to chip in funds.

INQUIRER sources said the legal loopholes of the deal to be cited by the Manila-based group in today's board meeting in Hong Kong were:

- The five-year lock-up provision when First Pacific first bought into PLDT in 1998 with the purchase from Cojuangco of a 17-percent indirect stake under holding company Philippine Telecommunications Investment Corp. (PTIC) prevents a sellout until 2003;
- Cojuangco has the right of first refusal and the option to buy back First Pacific's stake under the 1998 agreement, which means that he can match the offer or assign the rights to any party of his choice;
- NTT also has a right of first refusal when First Pacific convinced it to invest in PLDT, and
- Gokongwei is disqualified from sitting in the PLDT board under its corporate by-laws because of conflicting interests, the taipan being the principal of competitor Digitel, the second biggest landline provider in the Philippines next to PLDT.

But sources from the Gokongwei camp said on Friday the efforts by Pangilinan's group to block the deal were futile as they doubted their capability to match the offer.

The sources explained that what First Pacific had agreed to sell to the Gokongweis on the property component of the deal was the 50-percent stake in BLC secured by a P4.5-billion loan from Larouge NV.

MPC itself owns 73 percent of BLC, 50 percent of which was used as collateral when First Pacific extended a bridge financing last year to prevent the default of BLC on a convertible bond issue. BLC owns a majority stake in Global City developer Fort Bonifacio Development Corp., in turn a joint venture with state-owned Bases Conversion Development Authority.

Pangilinan and other MPC people were reportedly aghast that the Salim group agreed to sell the stake in BLC at a very low price of 16,000 per sq. m. when recent property transactions in the Global City were priced at P40,000 to P50,000 per sq. m.

MPC acquired the property in a highly contested bidding in 1995 at the cost of over P33,000, spent billions to develop the infrastructure and ended up with about P18 billion in debts related to the project.

"Why are you going to sell it in the middle of a debt restructuring which has been supported by most of the creditors? Why will you disrupt the process," an official said.

By selling at P16,000, the MPC people were also worried that it would unduly drive down the property benchmark in the Philippines and thus harm the economy now that there was a resurgence of interest in the property sector.

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Grand Draw
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2nd prize: 1 Home Entertainment Package
3rd prize: A trip for 2 to Hongkong inclusive of round-trip tickets
Consolation prizes: 40 Gift Checks from 1st e-Bank @ P1,500.00

Third Quarterly Draw - July 26, 2002
1st prize: IBM ThinkPad I Series • 2nd prize: Nokia 8850 Mobile Phone
3rd prize: Palm Pilot M505 • Consolation prizes: 40 Gift Certificates from 1st e-Bank @ P1,000.00 each
Per DTI-NCR Permit Number 3082, series of 2001

1st Prize
Toyota Altis 1.8G AT Raffle no. **10410249**
Baguio Branch Depositor

- 2nd prize winner: **1 IBM ThinkPad I-Series**
  Raffle No. **10351333**
  Dagupan Perez Branch Depositor
- 3rd prize winner: **1 Palm Pilot M505**
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Grand Draw
September 20, 2002
1st prize: **1 Mercedes Benz E 240**
2nd prize: 1 set Executive Watches
3rd prize: 1 Home Entertainment Package
Consolation prizes: 40 Gift Checks from 1st e-Bank @ P1,500.00

Third Quarterly Draw - June 21, 2002
1st prize: 1 Men's Executive Watch • 2nd prize: IBM ThinkPad Series
3rd prize: Palm Pilot M505 • Consolation prizes: 40 Gift Certificates from 1st e-Bank @ P1,000.00 each
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637-0234 to 36

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More about the Morgan Stanley Index

MR. BEARBULL

Ron Nathan

LAST week, I received a number of complaints because there were no puns. This week I will rectify this omission with a list of global items, which are topical, like my oil. Incidentally, this oil is good for eruptions so I am sending it to Mexico to rub on the volcano.

Abroad, a serious situation may be developing between Pakistan and India. Pakistan terrorists raided a Dehlicatessen. Their ballistic missiles are simply part of a missileaneous exercise. India has banned Sikh jokes and is trying to curry favor with President Bush, who Putin a good word for the Russian President. Miss Russia winning the title of Miss Universe must be good for Russian bonds as she will probably be the next Bond girl.

In Italy, the leaning tower of Pizza is being opened to the public and Shakey's has a pizza the action. The US Federal Trade Commission has stated that electrically operated belts do not reduce the abdomen as claimed. The people who make these claims are abdominable and should belt up. Jennifer Lopez, who is famous for her large butt, has just released a successful allbum.

At home, the Senate has threatened people who promote jueteng, and has them jueteng their pants. P1 billion of the budget was spent on graft. For election year, Kraft is making a special cheese called Kraft and Corruption. The school of Iridology is looking for new pupils. You can now study slimming, with Fatima Medical Science Foundation. The Philippines is trying to increase its quota of mangoes. You know the saying, "where mangoes, woman goes."

I have just read a book called "Cell Digitel the Gokong Way." Enough puns? Good, now I can get back to my article.

Last week, I recommended SMPH as one of four stocks, which had been down weighted by Morgan Stanley, and had consequently been heavily sold down by foreign brokers. All four have suffered badly and are worth looking at. In order not to show bias, I will examine them alphabetically.

MBT has announced first quarter results on the high side of a 10 percent to 50 percent recovery. Profits for 2002 are expected to be P3.3–P3.5 billion against P2.1 billion for 2001. Non-performing loans are expected to peak, and the bank hopes to increase lending to consumers by 5 percent to 10 percent. None of this good news did anything for the share price, which is close to its year's low. However, it is not a BUY because the price/earnings ratio is still high and the shares are not particularly volatile, even after the 5-for-1 split.

SMCB has been subjected to heavy selling this month, particularly last Wednesday, when the shares made a low for the year of P50.50, before recovering to P52.50. The first four months were very encouraging with April net profit up 43 percent. The dividend has been increased by 50 percent and capital expenditure is being increased to P10 billion annually for the next three years to 2004. In 2000 and 2001, it was only P3 billion.

Earnings per share for 2001 were just under P3 but for 2002, it should be closer to P4, assuming the rate of growth can be sustained. This would indicate a prospective price/earnings ratio of 14, which looks cheap in relation to the industry average of 17. The sale of a 15-percent stake to Kirin, a Japanese brewery, will bring in $540 million, equal to P27 billion. SMC is cash rich and the deal between the two companies should prove advantageous to both.

Three foreign brokers, ATR-Kim Eng, UBS Warburg and J.P. Morgan have all given SMC a BUY rating. This looks likes a good long-term investment.

SMPH, now P6, was written up in detail last week so I will not repeat it. BDO has settled at P20.50, which is 30 centavos below the issue price. I told my clients not to subscribe if they were looking for a quick profit as everybody else was trying to do the same thing. Currently, there are large sellers at P20.75 but once these are finally absorbed, the shares should move higher. However, this may take a while.

TEL was subject to very heavy selling, which sent the stock to a low of P400. This was in line with a global meltdown in telecom stocks. An announcement that Mr. Gokongwei may be bidding for PLTL sent both DGTL and PLTL higher. If this were to occur, it would also be good for TEL, and if the bid were in cash, it would be good for the market, as much of the cash would flow back into other equities. A counter bid cannot be ruled out.

What I forgot to tell you last week was that the fund managers are supposed to complete their adjustments by May 31, which is now past. If they have finished their selling, we can expect to see a recovery in the stocks mentioned.

As for the stocks that were upgraded, ALI remains close to its high at P7.10. EBC has also performed well, reaching P40 this week. BPI has come back from its high, even allowing for its stock dividend, but has still performed well relative to the index. AC was as high as P7, but institutions have been switching out of AC into ALI and this has been going on since last November. Obviously, they feel that ALI offers better growth prospects.

There was not the slightest interest in my idea of setting up an Investment Club so I have abandoned it.

You can reach me at mrbearbull@hotmail.com.

SEC urged to list other reforms for local bourse

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE INTERNATIONAL Monetary Fund, through the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, has asked the Securities and Exchange Commission to submit a report on more planned reforms for the Philippine Stock Exchange as well as past and previous policy thrusts affecting the corporate sector.

In a letter to the SEC dated May 20, BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said that a mission from the IMF would be here from May 30 to June 13 to review economic and financial developments in 2001 and the first quarter of 2002.

The IMF mission, which is here in line with its post-program monitoring of borrowers, wanted to discuss the economic outlook and policies implemented during the period including that of the SEC, Tetangco said.

Among the questions that the IMF has asked the SEC to answer refers to what other plans the regulatory agency has to reform the PSE aside from increasing the number of non-brokers to eight out of 15.

The IMF also asked the SEC to discuss recent reforms to improve corporate governance and progress in reforms on bankruptcy proceedings.

The SEC is pushing for the passage of a Corporate Recovery Act to speed up bankruptcy and rehabilitation proceedings following the failure of large companies as a result of the Asian financial crisis. It has also recently approved a Code of Corporate Governance that listed companies and those corporations with secondary licenses from the SEC or securities registered with the corporate watchdog must comply with starting July this year.

The IMF also sought the SEC's outlook on the non-financial corporate sector and how well protected the sector was against foreign currency and interest rate risks.

The multilateral agency, one of the biggest creditors of the Philippines, also asked the SEC to explain why trading volume in the stock market has remained low compared to the rest of the region and why market capitalization remained depressed.

PLDT bid seen boosting stocks

From page B1

and mobile unit Pilipino Telephone Co. likewise rose by 15.4 percent and 1.2 percent, respectively.

Bleeding property developer Metro Pacific Corp. likewise saw its share price rising by 32 percent.

The main-share Philippine Stock Exchange composite index, however, still dropped by 20 points or 1.5 percent to close at 1,315 on Friday as the Gokongwei buyout excitement did not spill over to other issues. The market likewise shrugged off the favorable first-quarter economic growth data released on Thursday.

The INQUIRER confirmed last week that the Gokongweis and the Salim group's First Pacific have reached an agreement on the sale of the latter's stake in PLDT and MPC subsidiary Bonifacio Land Co., developer of the 150-hectare Fort Bonifacio Global City, and were simply awaiting final signatures.

However, a bidding war has emerged due to opposition from the group of PLDT president Manuel V. Pangilinan, who is now organizing a management buyout offer to counter the Gokongweis' entry, as well as from PLDT's second biggest stockholder Nippon Telephone and Telegraph, which owns a 15-percent stake.

"Judging from Friday's market breadth, prospective buyers might wait for more time until the wave of foreign selling in large-cap stocks subsides. This will be the overall theme in determining whether the Phisix could keep its head aloft the 1,300 mark, or break below this psychological support barrier toward 1,260," 2tradeasia.com said.

"The highlight has apparently turned in favor of telecom stocks, even as the overall theme is still skewed toward corporate restructuring and re-strategizing stories," it said.

While facts have yet to be established surrounding buy-in speculations in PLDT, 2tradeasia.com said the investing community would vote on the merits of an investor's entry into the firm based on the following factors: attractiveness of the possible purchase price; management ingenuity, and long-run confidence within the financial community.

"Although the Salim Group has vividly expressed their intention to dispose their interest in PLDT and Metro Pacific, the prospective white knight in these firms should have stronger factors to surmount the telecom company's prevailing woes," it said.

2tradeasia.com said investors should caution against short-term trading bets that were confined to a single story, as any negative announcements could easily wipe out gains. Instead, it said investors should start accumulating stocks that have reached technically oversold levels like Ayala Corp. (immediate target of P6.30 to P6.60) and Petron Corp. (P2 to P2.08).

Doris C. Dumlao

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1	ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "A"	1,650,000.00	-
2	BUENAVISTA NATURE PARK & COUNTRY CLUB	Please call	-
3	CALATAGAN GOLF CLUB	-	100,000 a/fin
4	CALIRAYA SPRING	Please call	-
5	CAPITOL HILLS GOLF CLUB	-	120,000.00
6	COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY	-	415,000.00
7	EASTRIDGE GOLF CLUB	200,000.00	-
8	FONTANA "D"	70,000.00	-
9	MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	-	250,000.00
10	MANILA GOLF CLUB (Ind.)	-	11,000,000.00
11	MANILA POLO CLUB	-	2,700,000.00
12	MANILA SOUTHWOODS "A"	630,000.00	-
13	MIMOSA (Ind.)	-	120,000.00
14	MT. MALARAYAT "B"	-	400,000.00
15	ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "B"	275,000.00	-
16	PHILIPPINE COLUMBIAN ASSOCIATION	80,000.00	-
17	PUERTO AZUL BEACH CLUB "A"	100,000.00	-
18	PUNTA FUEGO	650,000.00	600,000.00
19	RIVIERA GOLF CLUB "A"	200,000.00	-
20	RIVIERA GOLF CLUB "B"	250,000.00	-
21	RIVIERA GOLF CLUB "C"	350,000.00	-
22	ROCKWELL	550,000.00	-
23	SHERWOOD HILLS "A"	100,000.00	90,000.00
24	SHERWOOD HILLS "B"	150,000.00	-
25	SPA & LODGE	670,000.00	-
26	STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "A"	-	1,680,000.00
27	TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS GOLF CLUB	900,000.00	-
28	TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	-	740,000.00
29	THE COUNTRY CLUB	2,800,000.00	-
30	VALLEY GOLF CLUB	-	250,000.00
31	WACK WACK GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	7,000,000.00	-
32	OTHERS	Please call	-

PLAYING RIGHTS ALSO AVAILABLE

ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB	P 30,000.00	TAGAYTAY GOLF CLUB	40,000.00
CALATAGAN GOLF CLUB	Reserved	TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	40,000.00
COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY	20,000.00	VALLEY GOLF CLUB	15,000.00
MAKATI SPORTS CLUB	20,000.00	WACK WACK GOLF CLUB	80,000.00
MANILA SOUTHWOODS	30,000.00	ORCHARD GOLF CLUB	20,000.00
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Alabang A/B	1,500,000/1,700,000	Alabang "A"/"B"	1,600,000/1,600,000
Baguio Country Club	725,000	Baguio Country Club	725,000
Canyon Woods	200,000	Calatagan "A"	70,000
Capitol Hills	120,000	Camp John Hay Golf	280,000
Eagle Ridge A	340,000	Canlubang Golf	550,000
Fontana "A"/"B"/"C"/"D"	Please call	Canyon Woods	160,000
Forest Hill "A"/"B"/"C"	230,000/Please call	Celebrity	180,000
Manila Golf (Indv./Corp.)	Please call	Club Filipino	Please call
Manila Southwoods "A"/"B"	630,000/700,000	Eagle Ridge "A"	340,000
Metropolitan "A"	100,000	Forest Hill "A"/"B"/"C"	220,000/260,000/230,000
Mt. Malarayat "A"/"C"	350,000/450,000	Manila Golf (Indv)	12,000,000
Orchard "A"/"C"	205,000/350,000	Manila Polo	2,600,000
Punta Fuego	550,000	Manila Southwoods "A"/"B"	600,000/700,000
Rockwell Club	400,000	Mimosa (Indv./Corp.)	135,000/275,000
Royale Tagaytay "A"/"B"	80,000	Mt. Malarayat "A"/"B"	350,000/400,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,700,000	Orchard "A"/"C"	200,000/330,000
Sherwood "A"/"B"/"C"	100,000/120,000/250,000	Philippine Columbian	70,000
Tagaytay Highland Golf	850,000	Quezon City Sports	210,000
Tagaytay Midlands Golf	760,000	Tagaytay Highland Golf	850,000
Wack Wack	6,875,000	Tagaytay Midlands Golf	760,000
		Valley Golf	250,000
		Wack Wack	6,875,000

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	SELLING AT	BUYING AT	Last Date at Same Asked Price
1. ALABANG "A"	CALL NOW	—	—
2. BAGUIO CC	-----	CALL NOW	—
3. CALATAGAN GC "A"	90,000	—	May 93
4. CAMP JOHN HAY	300,000	250,000	—
5. CANLUBANG GC	625,000	—	Dec 90
6. CAPITOL HILLS	130,000	—	July 91
7. CC AT TAGAYTAY	—	420,000	—
8. CELEBRITY CLUB	CALL NOW	175,000	Nov 96
9. EAGLERIDGE "A"	—	300,000	—
10. EAGLERIDGE "B"	500,000	—	—
11. FOREST HILLS "A"	215,000	—	July 00
12. MANILA GOLF (INDIV)	CALL NOW	—	Dec 94
13. MANILA POLO CLUB	3,000,000	2,750,000	—
14. MLA SOUTHWOODS "A"	670,000	—	<Pre-sell
15. MLA SOUTHWOODS "B"	—	715,000	—
16. ORCHARD "A"/"C"	CALL NOW	—	<Pre-sell
17. QUEZON CITY SPORTS "A"	—	205,000	May 95
18. RIVIERA GCC "C"	—	450,000	<Pre-sell
19. STA. ELENA "A"	1,800,000	—	Oct 95
20. SUBIC BAY YACHT (CORP)	—	CALL NOW	—
21. TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	850,000	820,000	—
22. TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	—	750,000	—
23. THE COUNTRY CLUB	CALL NOW	—	—
24. VALLEY GOLF	—	220,000	—
25. WACK WACK GOLF	CALL NOW	6,875,000	Mar 98

AVAILABLE LESSORS FOR PLAYING RIGHTS

ALABANG CC "A"	25,000	RIVIERA CC "A"	15,000
CC AT TAGAYTAY	20,000	STA. ELENA "A"	65,000
EAGLERIDGE "A"	10,000	TAGAYTAY H'LANDS	35,000
MANILA GOLF	400,000	TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	30,000
MIMOSA (INDIV)	5,000	WACK WACK GOLF	90,000

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CAPITOL HILLS	FOREST HILLS "A"	ORCHARD "A"	STA. ELENA "A"
CELEBRITY	BAGUIO CC	PUERTO AZUL	VALLE VERDE

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CLUB	BUYER	SELLER
Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino)	1,600,000	1,700,000
Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	Please Call	2,000,000
Baguio Country Club	700,000	740,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	70,000	100,000
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	100,000	110,000
Camp John Hay	250,000	300,000
Canlubang	550,000	Please Call
Canyonwoods	Please Call	200,000
Capitol Hills	-	120,000
Celebrity Sports Club	190,000	220,000
Eagle Ridge "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	Please Call
Eastridge "A"	Please Call	Please Call
Evercrest "A"	-	100,000
Forest Hills "A"	200,000	220,000
Forest Hills "B"	210,000	250,000
Forest Hills "C"	250,000	270,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	-	280,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	225,000	-
Manila Golf (Corporate)	-	15,000,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	12,000,000	14,000,000
Manila Polo	2,750,000	2,850,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	600,000	650,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	720,000	750,000
Metropolitan Club "A"	-	120,000
Montemar (Individual)	30,000	40,000
Montemar (Corp)	50,000	-
Mt. Malarayat	300,000	-
Orchard Golf Club "A"	200,000	230,000
Orchard Golf Club "B"	-	250,000
Orchard Golf Club "C"	300,000	Please Call
Pueblo de Oro "A"/"B"/"C"	-	Please Call
Puerto Azul	-	125,000
Quezon City Sports Club	-	220,000
Riviera Golf & Country Club "A"	-	Please Call
Rockwell	Please Call	550,000
Sherwood Hills "A"	-	100,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,625,000	1,800,000
Sta. Elena "B"	2,000,000	-
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	-	300,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	-	170,000
Tagaytay Country Club	410,000	420,000
Tagaytay Highlands	600,000	-
Tagaytay Midlands	740,000	800,000
The Country Club	Please Call	Please Call
Valle Verde (Individual)	-	160,000
Valley Golf	270,000	350,000
Wack-Wack Golf Club	6,800,000	Please Call

PLAYING RIGHTS (Available Lessors)

Alabang "A"	25,000	Mimosa Golf	25,000
Calatagan "A"	10,000	Orchard "A"	30,000
Canlubang	60,000	Riviera "A"	15,000
Eagleridge	15,000	Sta. Elena	60,000
Eastridge "A"	20,000	Tagaytay CC	20,000
Forest Hills	30,000	Tagaytay Golf	45,000
Manila Southwoods	20,000	Tagaytay Mid.	35,000
Makati Sports "A"	25,000	Valley Golf	20,000
Manila Golf	300,000	Wack-Wack	90,000

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(As of Friday, May 31, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	20.5	20.75	20.5	20.75	1,752,900
Banco Filipino Sav & Mort	90	90	90	90	200
Bank of the Phil. Islands	56	56.5	55.5	56	12,190,600
China Banking Corp.	630	630	630	630	200
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	40	42	40	41.5	1,133,300
First E-Bank Corp.	1.86	1.86	1.86	1.86	25,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	39	39.5	36.5	38	1,129,900
Philippine National Bank	34	34	29.5	29.5	516,700
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.75	5,000
Security Bank Corp.	14.25	14.25	13.25	14	525,800
Union Bank of the Phil.	23.25	23.75	23.25	23.75	81,700
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	14,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	20,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1455	1465	1455	1465	160
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1125	1130	1120	1125	12,550
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	28.5	28.5	28.5	28.5	2,600
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.83	0.86	0.77	0.81	22,860,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	660	675	660	670	1,340
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.039	0.05	0.038	0.05	2,900,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	24,000
Piltel	0.49	0.51	0.43	0.45	20,510,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.25	220,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	465	470	427.5	437.5	378,380
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.016	0.017	0.016	0.017	36,100,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	23	23	22.5	23	5,300
Manila Electric Co. B	32.5	32.5	30.5	31	1,538,700
Petron Corp.	1.92	1.94	1.84	1.84	15,783,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.66	1.66	1.66	1.66	165,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	30,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	200,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	235,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	55,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Union Cement Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	1,000,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	1,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.75	13.75	13.25	13.75	1,027,800
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	33.5	34	33.5	34	245,000
RFM Corp.	1.26	1.28	1.26	1.28	411,000
San Miguel Corp. A	47	48	46.5	47.5	302,600
San Miguel Corp. B	53.5	54.5	51	54.5	2,128,200
Universal Robina Corp.	4.4	4.5	4.4	4.4	238,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5.8	5.9	5.8	5.9	15,858,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	50,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.32	2.32	2.32	2.32	575,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	100,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.009	0.009	0.0085	0.0085	9,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.75	2.8	2.75	2.75	25,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	10,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	100,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	100,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.52	0.52	0.51	0.51	2,950,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	200,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.3	0.3	2,150,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	300,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	5,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	60,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	20,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	22.75	22.75	22.5	22.5	99,100
Global Equities Inc.	0.125	0.125	0.12	0.125	1,410,000
Ionics Inc.	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.9	231,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.88	1.88	1.78	1.78	282,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.78	0.79	0.78	0.79	6,610,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	20,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.37	0.38	0.33	0.33	48,250,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.0975	0.1	0.0975	0.0975	1,500,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	5,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	100,000
Pryce Corp.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	900,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	9.8	9.8	9.8	9.8	3,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.41	0.42	0.41	0.42	450,000
Mondragon Intl Phils. Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	110,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	28.5	28.5	28	28	328,700
Globe Telecom Hldg. (Pdr)	845	850	840	840	1,250
Jollibee Warrants	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	40,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	300
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	1,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	7.1	7.1	7	7	10,974,000
Cityland Development Corp.	3	3	3	3	156,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	900,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.38	0.38	0.36	0.36	560,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	430,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.95	2.95	2.7	2.8	8,378,000
Highlands Prime Leisure	1.78	1.78	1.76	1.78	70,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.22	0.26	0.22	0.22	1,600,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.16	0.16	400,000
SM Development Corp.	0.89	0.89	0.89	0.89	140,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.9	6	5.8	5.8	5,819,000
MINING					
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't.	2	2	2	2	4,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines Inc.	0.042	0.042	0.04	0.041	300,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	550,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.23	0.235	0.23	0.23	2,440,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	19,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	4,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	31,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.31	0.31	0.3	0.31	1,320,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.33	0.33	0.32	0.33	180,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0034	0.0038	0.0034	0.0036	18,000,000

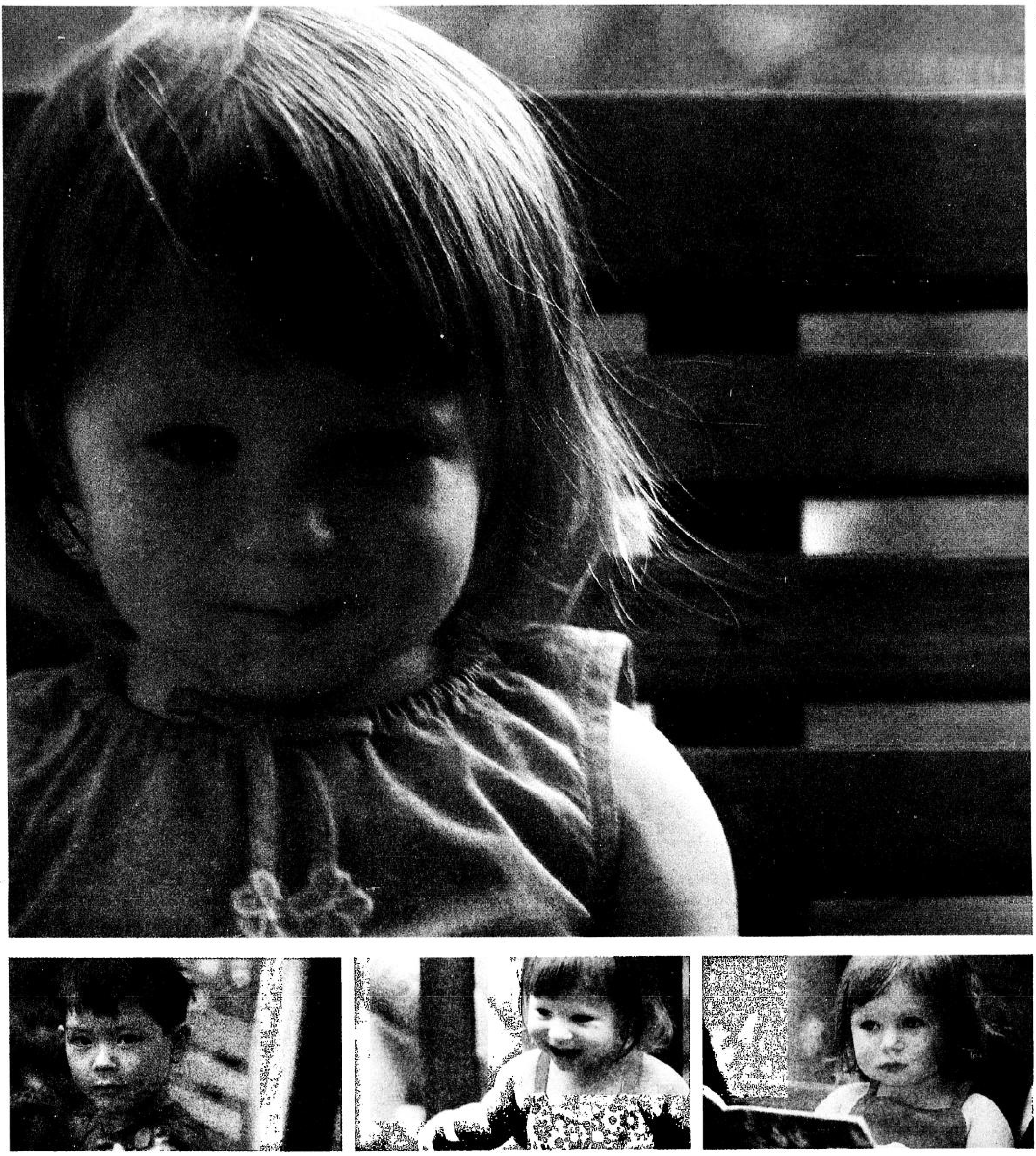
	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	17,410,010	846,607,980.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	199,208,070	564,966,910.00
PRO	29,427,000	136,773,700.00
Mining	58,794,000	1,742,750.00
OIL	18,000,000	65,600.00
GRAND TOTALS:	322,839,080	1,550,156,940.00

AVERAGES		
Banks & Fin Svc	532.37	DOWN 7.63
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,792.44	DOWN 9.84
PRO	591.33	DOWN 10.03
Mining	1,434.29	DOWN 34.54
OIL	1.26	UP 0.05
All Shares Index	757.58	DOWN 4.33
Composite	1,315.00	DOWN 13.55

CURRENCIES

May 31, 2002

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.066098	1.000000	49.9660
Japan	Yen	0.008648	0.008112	0.4053
United Kingdom	Pound	1.562580	1.465700	73.2352
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.136687	0.128212	6.4062
Switzerland	Franc	0.683177	0.640820	32.0192
Canada	Dollar	0.695025	0.651933	32.5745
Singapore	Dollar	0.597187	0.560161	27.9890
Australia	Dollar	0.601975	0.564653	28.2135
Bahrain	Dinar	2.827997	2.652661	132.5429
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.284286	0.266660	13.3239
Brunei	Dollar	0.592936	0.556174	27.7898
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000120	0.000113	0.0056
Thailand	Baht	0.025144	0.023585	1.1784
UAE	Dirham	0.290269	0.272272	13.6043
Korea	Won	0.000880	0.000825	0.0412
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.938000	46.8681
Argentina	Peso	0.298627	0.280112	14.1158
Brazil	Real	0.424571	0.398248	19.8989
Denmark	Kroner	0.134772	0.126416	6.3165
India	Rupee	0.021788	0.020437	1.0212
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.280552	0.263158	13.1490
Mexico	New Peso	0.110145	0.103316	5.1623
New Zealand	Dollar	0.508950	0.477395	23.8535
Norway	Kroner	0.134310	0.125983	6.2949
Pakistan	Rupee	0.017784	0.016681	0.8335
South Africa	Rand	0.110214	0.103381	5.1655
Sweden	Kroner	0.109525	0.102734	5.1332
Syria	Pound	0.024396	0.022883	1.1434
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.031392	0.029446	1.4713
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000912	0.000855	0.0427



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Gov't woos Danding on joint sale of UCBP stakes

By C. S. Batino

THE MACAPAGAL administration is trying to convince the group of Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco to sell part of the contested shares in United Coconut Planters Bank to a strategic buyer who would also be willing to raise the lender's capital by at least P10 billion.

Well-placed sources said the government's finance and banking officials sought the approval of Malacañang last month to execute the plan as well as to pursue other options in case the Cojuangco group would not agree.

Assuming Cojuangco agrees, the government will find a buyer for a majority stake in the bank who will not only put up the money for a corresponding number of shares but also be willing to infuse another P10 billion to shore up UCPB's capital.

The proceeds of the sale, the source said, would be placed in an escrow account that could be opened only once the courts had decided with a finality on who are the rightful shareholders of the bank.

About 95 percent of UCPB's ownership is being contested by Cojuangco and by the coconut farmers. The courts would have to decide whether the coco levy funds collected from the farmers during the time of Marcos were private or public.

UCPB officials had admitted that the bank needed about P6 billion to meet the central bank's requirement of a 10-percent capital-adequacy ratio and another P10 billion to be at par with other universal banks with an average ratio of about 16 percent.

Last year, UCPB's capital-adequacy ratio stood only at 7 percent, indicating that it does not have enough resources to meet financial risks.

As of end-2001, the country's ninth largest bank had a capital base of only P5.78 billion. While assets stood at P108.34 billion, its non-performing loans had ballooned to P20.88 billion or 32 percent of its total loans from a ratio of 23 percent during the third quarter of 2001.

The bank also sustained a loss of P2.5 billion in 2000 from a net income of P752 million in 1999. The level of losses was expected to be higher last year.

UCPB should be an attractive acquisition for my investor given its extensive franchise of more than 100 branches, a strong network of automated teller machines, plus the contribution of subsidiaries like a savings bank and a rural bank.

"We are a complete financial services group as we also have insurance companies within our fold. UCPB should be a fantastic buy for any party that wants to go into banking," said its president Edward Go in an earlier interview.

Go said UCPB would have to cut down its operating expenses this year while selling its foreclosed assets to improve the bank's finances.

COJUANGCO

"The recovery is really hinged on recapitalization as well as the disposal of foreclosed assets. We also have to find cheap funds wherever we can and we hope to do that primarily by increasing deposits," he noted.

UCPB's deposits also increased in February by P2 billion as part of the windfall from the $540 million investment of Kirin in San Miguel Corp.

Go said the courts were expected to resolve the ownership issue of the coconut levy as well as in UCPB within two years. But the recapitalization of the bank must happen soon.

METRO PACIFIC CORPORATION

NOTICE OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of Metro Pacific Corporation (the "Company") will be held on Tuesday, 11 June 2002, 10:00 a.m. at the auditorium of Building A, Bonifacio Centre, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, Metro Manila, for the following purposes:

1. To consider and approve the President's Report and the Annual Report for the year 2001.
2. To ratify all acts of the Board of Directors and Management for the year 2001.
3. To consider and adopt the Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2001 contained in the Annual Report.
4. To approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 27 April 2001.
5. To elect the Directors of the Company for the ensuing year.
6. To consider and act upon the appointment of independent auditors.
7. To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting and at any adjournment thereof.

The Board of Directors has fixed the close of business on 30 April 2002 as the record date for the determination of stockholders entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the Annual Stockholders' Meeting.

By order of the Board

ANTONIO A. PICAZO
Corporate Secretary

SEC insists firm's chair must sign statement of responsibility

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission is standing pat on a requirement that the board chair of a company subject to the Corporate Governance Code must sign a more comprehensive statement of management responsibility for the company's financial statements.

Officials of listed firms and other companies subject to the Corporate Governance Code have assailed the requirement that the board chair sign the statement of management responsibility given that the statement would make them more liable for the financial statements.

In a statement last week, the SEC, in defense of the requirement, said that "the signature of the chair of the board shall prove that the board of directors performed its responsibility to pass upon or review the financial statements before the same are disseminated to the company's stockholders."

"It shall likewise hold the board as represented by its chair as responsible in ensuring that the oversight function of its audit committee relative to the financial reporting are properly conducted in accordance with the manual of corporate governance to be adopted by the company," the SEC said.

The SEC approved in April a memorandum circular requiring public companies to adhere to international best practices of corporate governance. The Code of Corporate Governance is aimed at preventing corporate failures arising from conflict of interest or from simple neglect of the board directors to properly oversee management.

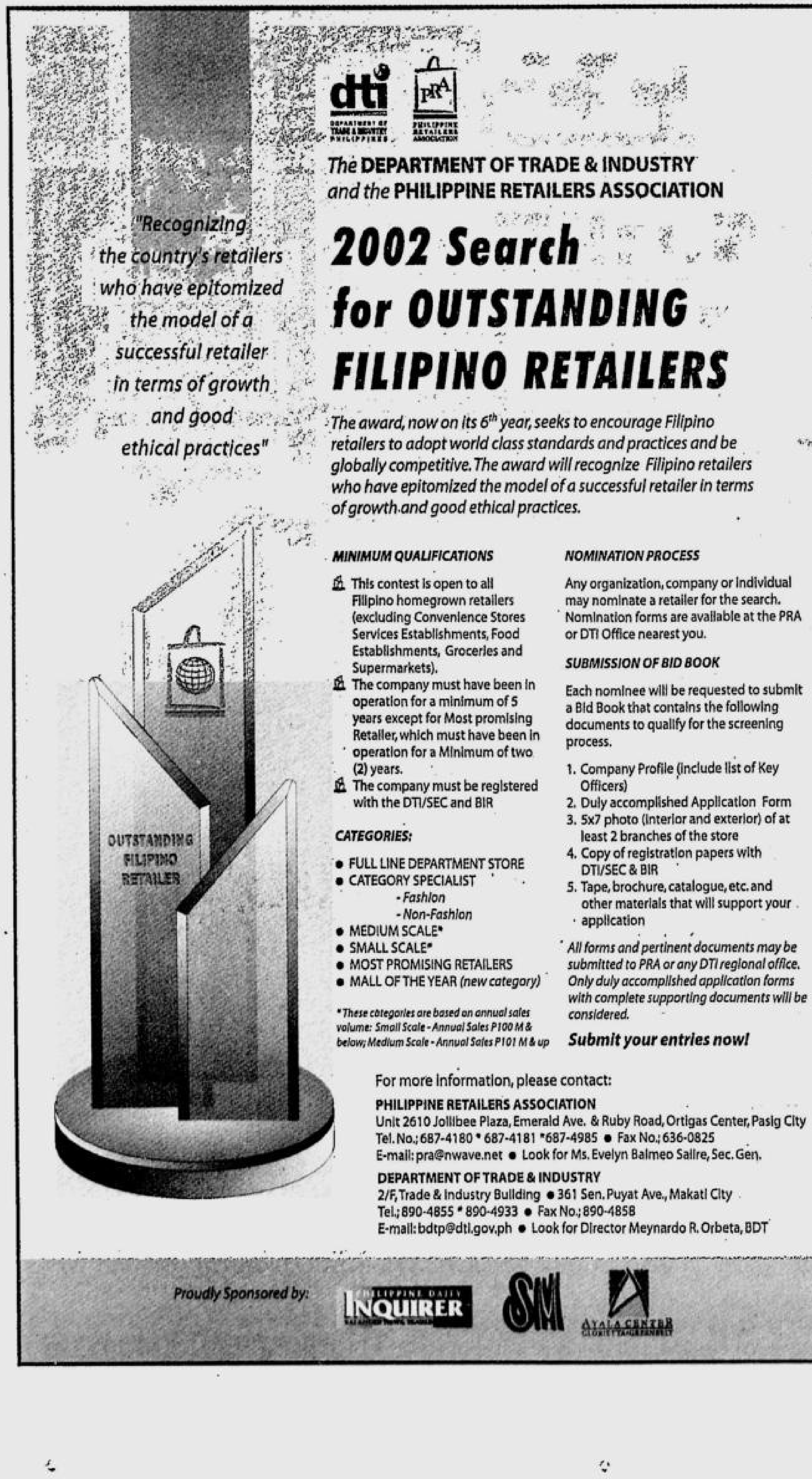
Specifically, the SEC requires public companies or units of foreign public companies and those with a secondary license from the SEC such as pre-need companies, investment houses and the like to come up with a manual of operations based on the Code of Corporate Governance within a year. The covered companies will face penalties for noncompliance.

Under the Code of Corporate Governance, a company's board of directors is given special responsibility for adhering to the principles of fairness, accountability and transparency in directing the affairs of the corporation.

Board directors who do not attend regularly, who do not disclose the extent of their business interest and do not meet other requirements may be disqualified or suspended from the board.

The code provides for the formation of four board committees: audit and compliance, nomination, compensation, and risk management and calls on management to put in place a performance evaluation system that would be applied to the board and top management itself.

The circular also stated that board members should be provided with complete, adequate and timely information prior to board meetings and on an ongoing basis.



"Recognizing the country's retailers who have epitomized the model of a successful retailer in terms of growth and good ethical practices"

The DEPARTMENT OF TRADE & INDUSTRY
and the PHILIPPINE RETAILERS ASSOCIATION

2002 Search for OUTSTANDING FILIPINO RETAILERS

The award, now on its 6th year, seeks to encourage Filipino retailers to adopt world class standards and practices and be globally competitive. The award will recognize Filipino retailers who have epitomized the model of a successful retailer in terms of growth and good ethical practices.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

- This contest is open to all Filipino homegrown retailers (excluding Convenience Stores Services Establishments, Food Establishments, Groceries and Supermarkets).
- The company must have been in operation for a minimum of 5 years except for Most promising Retailer, which must have been in operation for a Minimum of two (2) years.
- The company must be registered with the DTI/SEC and BIR

CATEGORIES:

- FULL LINE DEPARTMENT STORE
- CATEGORY SPECIALIST
  - Fashion
  - Non-Fashion
- MEDIUM SCALE*
- SMALL SCALE*
- MOST PROMISING RETAILERS
- MALL OF THE YEAR (new category)

*These categories are based on annual sales volume: Small Scale - Annual Sales P100 M & below; Medium Scale - Annual Sales P101 M & up

NOMINATION PROCESS

Any organization, company or individual may nominate a retailer for the search. Nomination forms are available at the PRA or DTI Office nearest you.

SUBMISSION OF BID BOOK

Each nominee will be requested to submit a Bid Book that contains the following documents to qualify for the screening process.

1. Company Profile (include list of Key Officers)
2. Duly accomplished Application Form
3. 5x7 photo (interior and exterior) of at least 2 branches of the store
4. Copy of registration papers with DTI/SEC & BIR
5. Tape, brochure, catalogue, etc. and other materials that will support your application

All forms and pertinent documents may be submitted to PRA or any DTI regional office. Only duly accomplished application forms with complete supporting documents will be considered.

Submit your entries now!

For more information, please contact:

PHILIPPINE RETAILERS ASSOCIATION
Unit 2610 Jollibee Plaza, Emerald Ave. & Ruby Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel. No.; 687-4180 * 687-4181 *687-4985 ● Fax No.; 636-0825
E-mail: pra@nwave.net ● Look for Ms. Evelyn Balmeo Saiire, Sec. Gen.

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE & INDUSTRY
2/F, Trade & Industry Building ● 361 Sen. Puyat Ave., Makati City
Tel.; 890-4855 * 890-4933 ● Fax No.; 890-4858
E-mail: bdtp@dti.gov.ph ● Look for Director Meynardo R. Orbeta, BDT

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New investor puts in ₱600M in PRCI property subsidiary

PHILIPPINE Racing Club Inc., owner of the Sta. Ana Park racetrack in Makati, has announced the projected sale of P600 million worth of shares in its property subsidiary Sta. Ana Park Square Holdings Corp.—to Precision Holdings and Equities Corp.

It said the agreement to sell the block of shares in the PRCI subsidiary was ratified last week by the PRCI board.

Sta. Ana Park Square Holdings was organized last year as a wholly owned subsidiary of PRCI to undertake real estate development. It has been tasked initially to oversee the commercial development of four to six hectares of the Sta. Ana property in Makati.

Sale of Sta. Ana Park Square shares will generate funds for eventual retirement of PRCI's existing loans and the completion of the new PRCI racing facility currently under construction in Cavite which is envisioned to become the new home of Sta. Ana races. PRCI is one of the joint venture partners of Sta. Lucia Realty and Development Corp. in developing a 576-hectare mixed use complex straddling Trece Martirez, Tanza and Naic in Cavite.

The development project, known as the Saddle and Clubs Leisure Park has, as its main features, the New Sta. Ana Park racecourse, the Royal Pacific Golf Club comprised of two golf courses designed by golfing great Arnold Palmer together with Ronald Fream of Golfplan Inc., the Saddle & Clubs Residential Estates consisting of several clusters of residential communities, and the Triple Crown Commercial Estates which will serve as the business and commercial hub of the entire Saddle and Clubs community. PRCI's racetrack in the development project is almost complete and work on the support structures is expected to commence shortly.

The sale of a portion of the subsidiary's shares to a new investor is expected to boost PRCI's horseracing operation and expand the gaming side of the racing activities.

Last year, PRCI posted a 24-percent increase in gross revenues from the Sta. Ana races with total sales exceeding P3 billion. Almost 80 percent of sales were accounted for by PRCI's Off-Track Betting stations located in various parts of Metro Manila and in neighboring provinces. In recent years, PRCI embarked on an expansion of its OTB network outside of Metro Manila. Its provincial coverage now reaches as far as Nueva Ecija, Pangasinan and Quezon.

BIR misses collection . . .

From page B2

Foreign investors had mixed reactions on the fiscal slippage in the first quarter as some believed that the government could still rein in the deficit while some were concerned that the fiscal gap was getting harder to meet.

"We have to review the targets, specially the expenditures because if the revenue side would not improve in the coming months, we have to slow down on spending. Otherwise, we might have to deal with an uncontrollable deficit," said a ranking finance official.

Camacho said in an earlier interview that any review would be done only after the first half. "It is too early. We had agreed to do a review only after the second quarter.".

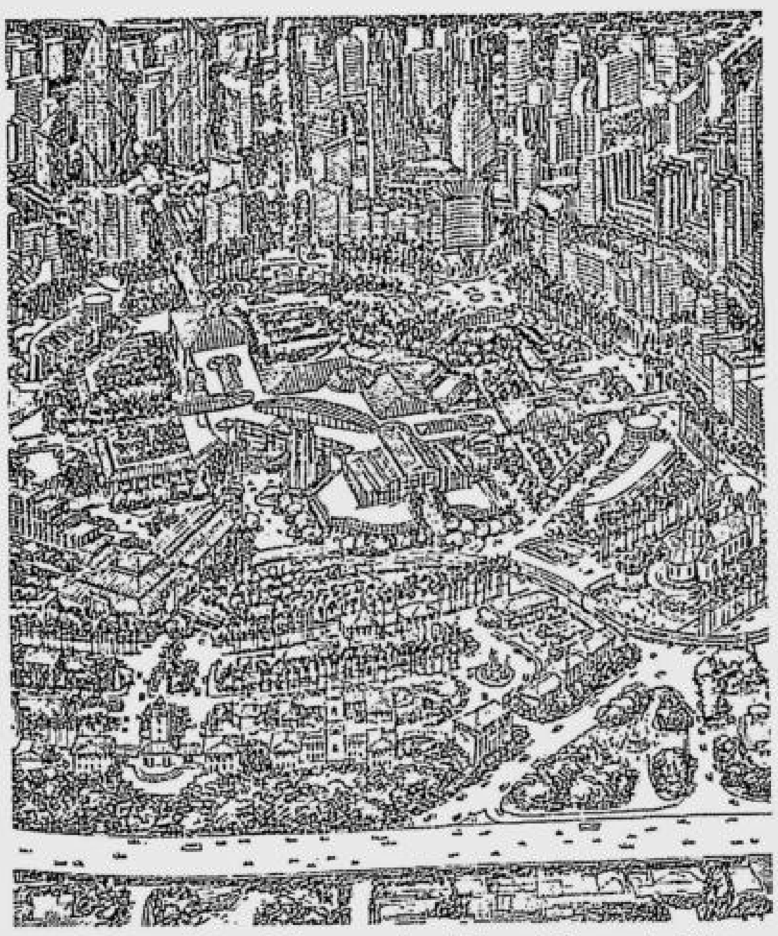
The finance secretary, however, said he believed that there was no need to revise the expenditure items. "We just need to stay within our spending targets. I don't think we need to cut," he said.

Camacho assured that the P130-billion deficit target this year would be met despite the weak first quarter fiscal performance.

The finance secretary pointed out that the proceeds from the BIR's administrative measures last year also came in late. He said a strong collection by the internal revenue agency during the fourth quarter had allowed it to even exceed slightly its P388-billion target in 2001.

Camacho pointed out that the government had already front-loaded its payables during the first quarter, a factor that would ease the pressure on the expenditures and the deficit in the coming months.

Filinvest to develop new retail center in Alabang



ARTIST'S rendition of the sprawling Filinvest Corporate City

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE GOTIANUNS' Filinvest Development Corp. is developing a 9.5-hectare Westgate Center at its Filinvest Corporate City in Alabang into a mixed-use retail center and has signed up US-based retail giant S&R Price Club among the first locators.

FDC officials also told analysts during the company's stockholders' meeting last week that other initial locators so far contracted for the retail center were Country Waffles, Fitness First Gym and Spa, Brothers Burger and East West Bank.

Joanne Miguel, an analyst with 2tradeasia.com, said in a corporate report that FDC was riding on the current trend of specially themed strips and this was expected to boost the recurring income of Filinvest Alabang.

Negotiations were likewise ongoing with fine dining restaurants, auto retailers and other new locators.

Miguel said FDC's planned expansion into the retail segment should provide some exciting stories to this property issue despite expectations that earnings for 2002 would remain flat at P510 million.

The retail expansion was likewise the strategy used by property magnate Andrew Tan's Megaworld Corp. for its flagship 15-ha Eastwood City Cyberpark, whose Eastwood City Walk successfully drew the crowd and catapulted the Libis property into a premier retail, recreation and restaurant hub.

FDC is likewise constructing the P350-million South Central, a retail development near the Alabang public market and bus terminal which is being groomed like the Guoco group's Tutuban Center. The new retail bargain center, which will cater to the lower income segment, is targeted for launching by the third quarter.

"Meanwhile, FDC's flagship mall, Festival Supermall in Alabang, posted revenues of P500 million last year on improved occupancy rate of 80 percent," Miguel said. "Assuming mall operations would mirror the same rental revenue growth for 2002, Ebitda (earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortization) is seen reaching P266 million," Miguel said.

She said FDC, the parent company of housing developer Filinvest Land Inc., was currently trading at 15 times this year's forecast profits. Net asset value was estimated at P11.54 per share.

GSIS to acquire 8.5-hectare Tutuban property of PNR

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE GOVERNMENT Service Insurance System has agreed in principle to acquire from the Philippine National Railways an 8.5-hectare property at the Tutuban station and the retail center on it for a total of P1.5 billion.

In a briefing with reporters Friday following the state-pension fund's 65th anniversary celebration, GSIS president Winston Garcia said the purchase of the property was part of GSIS's strategy to set aside P5 billion to acquire, mainly from government institutions or organizations, P20 billion worth of property based on appraised value.

The aim was to cushion the impact of having to set aside P14 billion in provisions to cover for market declines in its investments in the past two years, and, at the same time, provide liquidity to government corporations and good investment opportunities to GSIS.

For the Tutuban property, he said the pension fund would offset a past-due P500-million loan from PNR and shell out P1 billion in cash for the transaction.

Garcia explained that GSIS would acquire the land at P15,000 per square meter although the appraised value was about three times that amount. GSIS would also buy for P350 million the improvements on the property, including a mall that had a net income last year of P75 million.

"It will earn us a 7-percent return while giving us a 300 percent to 400 percent increase in the value of our investment," Garcia said.

GSIS was also looking into buying 12 hectares of a 16-ha property owned by Philippine National Construction Corp. at P10,000 per sq. m. The property has an appraised value of P40,000 per sq. m., he said.

The Privatization Management Office, formerly the Asset Privatization Trust, has also offered to sell its property along Roxas Boulevard where the "Boom na Boom" carnival is held annually.

"If it will be sold at one-third of the price we will (buy it). Our obligations are long-term so this money (from sale of assets even at current appraised value) will be used 13 to 15 years from now," Garcia pointed out.

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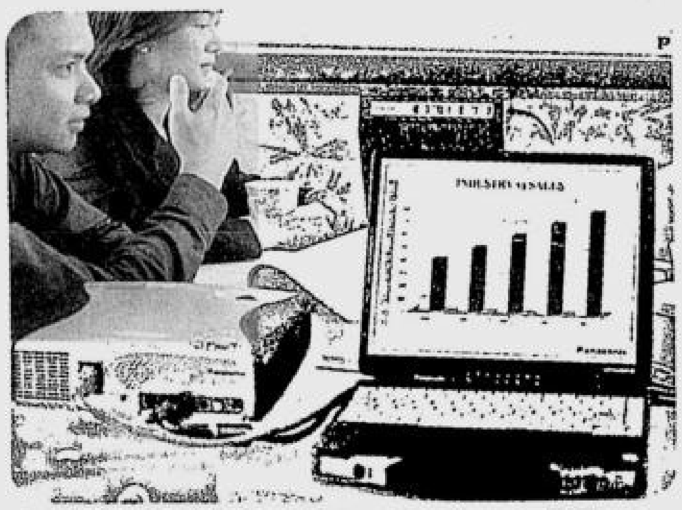
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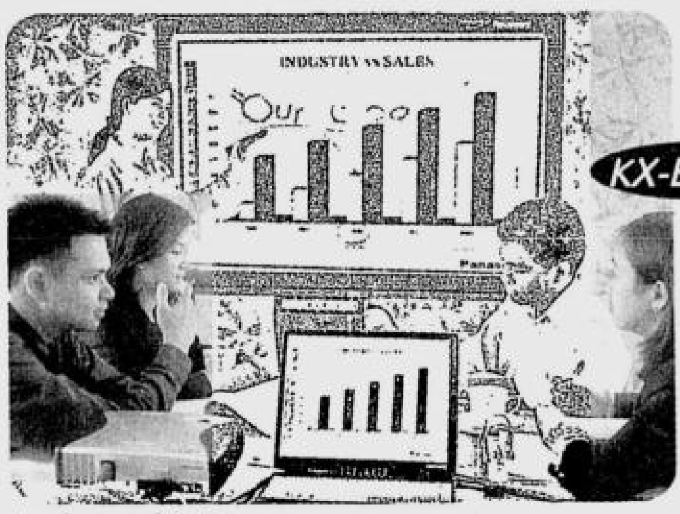

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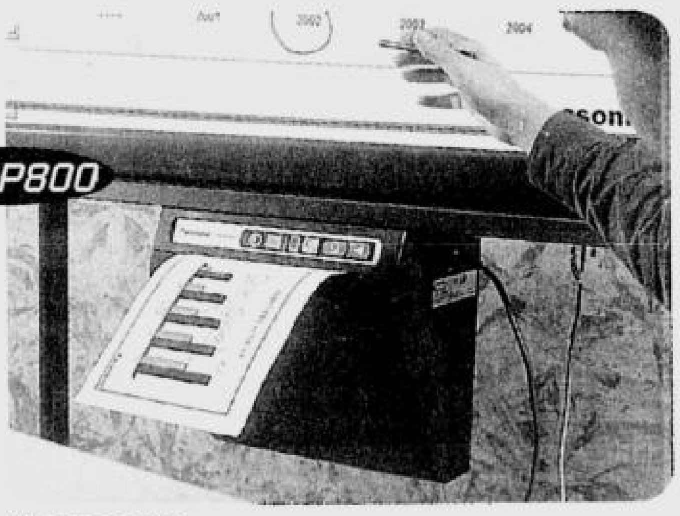
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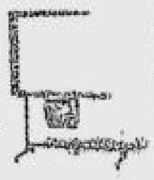
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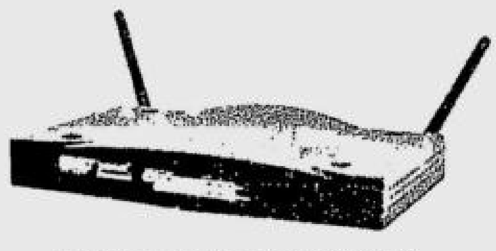
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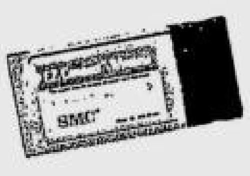
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UOB seeks disqualification of 4 bank directors

By Clarissa S. Batino

UNITED Overseas Bank Philippines, the local unit of United Overseas Bank Ltd. of Singapore, has asked the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to disqualify four UOB directors from sitting on its board for allegedly acting against the bank's interest.

In a letter to the BSP dated May 30, UOB Philippines president Chua Teng Hui accused the directors linked to the bank's Filipino shareholders of "trying to sabotage the bank by agitating and causing panic among its depositors."

UOB Philippines is 60-percent owned by the Singaporean bank and about 33 percent by local investors led by John Espiritu and the group of Tony Tan Caktiong and William Tan.

Bank directors Avelino Sebastian Jr., Alfonso Reyno Jr., Victor Lazatin, and Ferdinand Domingo held a press conference last week where they allegedly said that UOB Phils. was being mismanaged and was losing heavily.

"Apart from the fact that the said pronouncements are completely false and misleading, the fabricated statements made were calculated to trigger a run in the bank to the damage and prejudice of its depositors," said Chua in the letter to the BSP.

The bank president said that if the directors who were making damaging statements about the bank would remain in UOB, the bank might encounter serious difficulties with its depositors to an extent that might be irreparable.

UOB Phils. said the central bank must exercise its regulatory powers to prevent any damage that might do harm not only to the bank but also the entire banking system.

"The directors were placed on the board to look after the interests of the bank. In gross violation of their duties, they gave gravely damaging and incorrect statements to further the interests of the minority shareholders, even if it meant sabotaging the bank," Chua said.

The conflict between the Singaporean and Filipino shareholders in UOB Phils. stemmed from the alleged failure of the former to turnover P1.4 billion in receivables to the latter. The Filipino group claimed that this was covered by an agreement done in good faith.

Since the receivables were loan collections, UOB Phils. is required by the BSP to reflect the payment in its books. This means the Singaporean group had to shell out P1.4 billion to keep its Filipino partners happy even after it had already spent P3 billion in rehabilitating the bank.

Chua said the dispute between the shareholders should be addressed in the proper forum.

A central bank official said that the BSP lawyers would ask the Filipino group to reply and explain its side. "We must follow due process in this case," said the source.

The official added that the BSP would also investigate the allegations of the Filipino shareholders that the Singaporeans had assigned about 7 percent of the bank to a Filipino posing as a dummy. This effectively puts the combined Singaporean ownership to 67 percent.

UOB ranks 25th among about 50 commercial banks in the country in terms of assets. Its assets amount to ₱15.73 billion. It, however, carries the second-largest ratio of non-performing loans of 72 percent of total loan portfolio. The bank has total deposits of P12.76 billion as of the first quarter.

GOINGS-ON

Buy Pinoy show

THE PHILIPPINE Exporters Confederation Inc. (Philexport), in cooperation with the Department of Trade and Industry, will launch the 1st Buy Pinoy Exporters Show on Aug. 9-11, 2002 at the Megatrade Halls of SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City.

The event is a project of the Buy Pinoy Movement. The movement's major stakeholders such as the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industries (PCCI), Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce (FFCCCI), Lucio Tan Group of Companies and the Export and Industry Bank are also the major sponsors of the event.

The show will be a selling fair that features mainly holiday decors, gifts, toys, premiums and houseware items including home furnishings manufactured by Filipino exporters nationwide. About 250 Citem-Manila Fame exhibitors of world-class products are expected to participate in the show.

MOU on e-governance

MICROSOFT Philippines and Stradcom International Holdings Inc. (SIHI) recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to promote e-governance initiatives in the Philippines.

Under the MOU, Microsoft will provide SIHI with updates in technological advancements, as well as certification and training programs such as the Microsoft Certified Professional and Microsoft Office User Specialist programs, for its personnel. Microsoft will also assist SIHI in acquiring necessary software licensing requirement. Moreover, Microsoft will work with SIHI on the integration of Internet and e-business technologies in its IT projects for e-governance.

SIHI will in turn adopt Microsoft technologies in its operations. SIHI will also promote and endorse Microsoft technologies, licensing and training in its various e-governance solutions.

LOANS FROM SPAIN
Finance Acting Secretary Juanita D. Amatong receives from Oscar Via Ozalla, Economic Commercial Counsellor of Spain, the documents of the loan packages amounting to US$59.47 million extended by Institute de Credito Oficial (ICO) and Banco Bilbao Vizcaya Argentaria S.A. (BBVA) of Spain.
The loan will finance the upgrading of Philippine General Hospital's department of medical services, the upgrading of medical equipment in Zamboanga City Medical Center, and the acquisition of patrol vessels for the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources.

Trouble in foreign retirees' paradise

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

THERE is a government program designed to attract foreigners to spend their retirement years in a tropical paradise like the Philippines. As of June 2001, there were 2,971 foreigners from 63 countries who have come under this program.

I know a few of them. Two Japanese friends of mine live just off the 18th fairway of the Alabang Golf and Country Club. They play golf all year round, at a fraction of the cost if they played in Japan. A Swiss national is a client of mine and he lives comfortably in a house in the middle of a coconut grove in Laguna. After working here for 30 years as the representative of Munich Reinsurance Co., my very good friend Gerd decided to stay for good. He chose to live in a high-rise condo unit in Makati where he says he can find everything he needs (I don't think he means groceries).

But there is trouble in paradise. Some years back, the retirees organized themselves into the Philippine Retirement Authority Association Foundation Inc. or Prama. Membership was mandatory. In late May last year, a splinter group of disgruntled retirees called Concerned Philippine Retirees Group filed a complaint with President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The group claimed that control of Prama was in the hands of one man, the president supported by four un-elected trustees. Only members who had been invited by the Prama president to become voting members could vote. And there are only four of them. The by-laws had been changed, without the required vote of members, to extend the terms of the president and his four buddies. If this is true, these guys can teach our politician a thing or two on winning elections.

Worst of all, about P87 million in members' funds have not been duly accounted for.

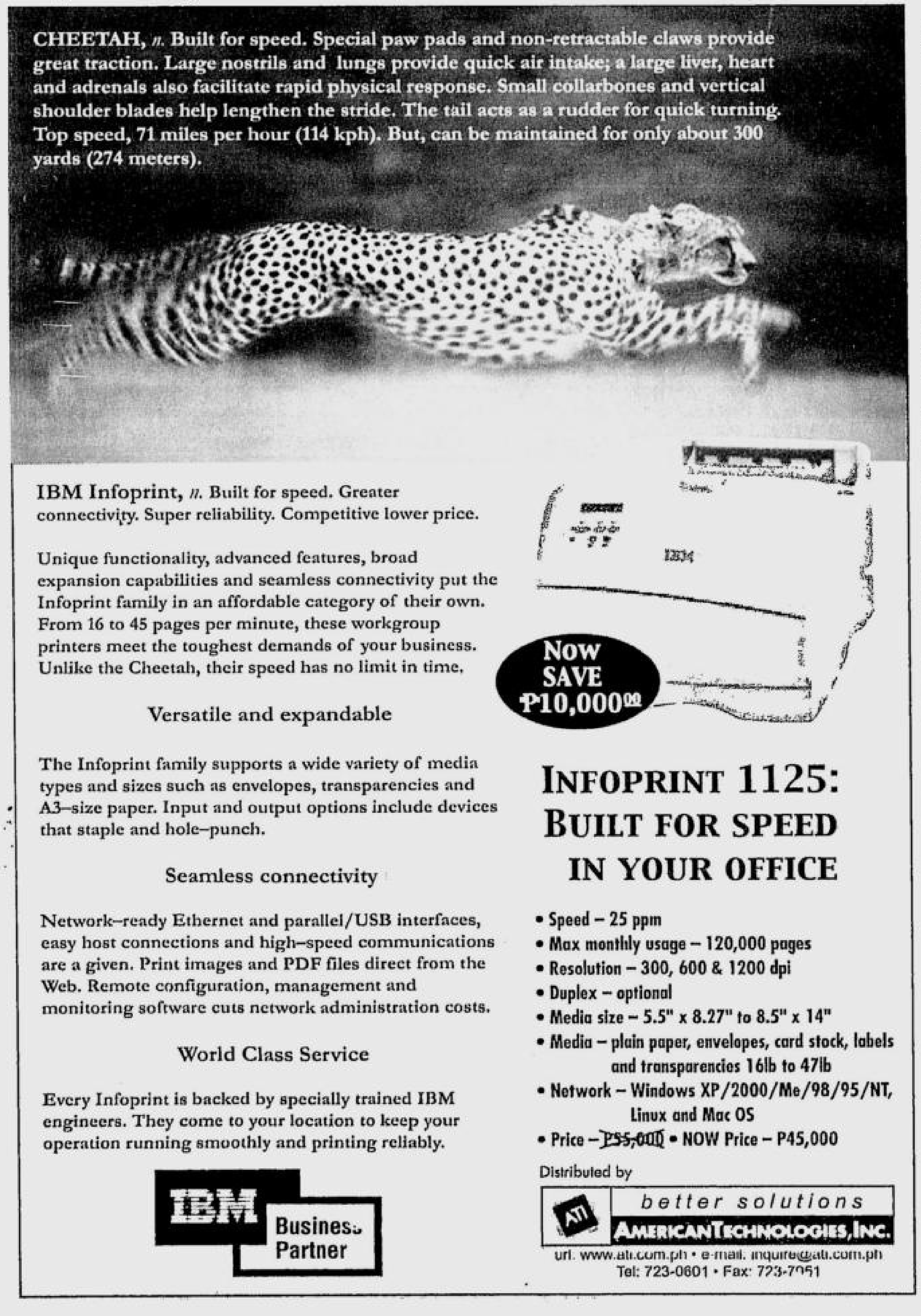
Apparently in answer to the charge that the lifetime trustees of Prama have not done anything for the members, they recently sent out a circular that they had negotiated a health care program and a memorial plan for members who are willing to sign up. Premiums will of course be on top of members' dues. It seems to me that if so much money remains unaccounted for, the health care and memorial plans should be free.

The Philippine Retirement Authority (PRA) runs the retirement program. The general manager/CEO has also been in trouble. There is a memorandum of agreement between the PRA and Prama. Here my information is a bit hazy. It seems that because of the Prama's undemocratic ways, the MOA was canceled. In retaliation, Prama sued the GM/CEO for failure to remit members' dues which PRA was bound to collect and remit under the MOA. As a result, the GM/CEO was placed under preventive suspension. But Prama lost the case and the GM/CEO got back her job. Now she is under preventive suspension again, apparently because of another complaint. I called up PRA but nobody was telling. The suspension expires soon.

The splinter group has accomplished one thing: membership at Prama is now voluntary. But it wants to be an alternative group parallel to Prama.

This mess has to be cleaned up. It does not look nice to see retirees, foreigners at that, fighting like spoiled children. Besides, what will it do to the program of attracting foreigners to retire in a tropical paradise like the Philippines?

Since our lawmakers seem to be in a mood to investigate anything, why don't they look into this mess?



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Meralco plans to expand Miescor operations, market

By Doris C. Dumlao

MANILA Electric Co. is scouting for a foreign strategic investor and partner for its profitable engineering/construction subsidiary and key sub-contractor Meralco Industrial Engineering Services Corp.

The company wants a foreign group in Miescor in a bid to globalize the engineering/construction firm's operations.

In a recent interview, Meralco chair and chief executive officer Manuel Lopez admitted that the company had considered selling the subsidiary to a Portuguese group but added that the talks had fizzled out.

"It turned out that they (the Portuguese group) were not really serious. They were merely exploring the possibility (of buying the company)," Lopez said.

Lopez said Meralco was willing at that time to sell shares of the subsidiary because the foreign group appeared committed and that Meralco thought it could provide value-added to Miescor.

This time, he said Meralco was determined to expand Miescor's business through a partnership with a foreign group. He, however, said Meralco was not keen on divesting its controlling stake in Miescor.

"We'd like to team up with an international company so that we can do projects overseas," Lopez said.

"Since many of Miescor's projects are Meralco's, we want to make sure that it will remain under the close supervision of our people. We just want a strategic investor," he explained.

Miescor is an engineering, consulting and construction firm specializing in power generation, transmission and distribution, water resources, transportation and telecommunication systems.

For fiscal year 2000-2001, Miescor chalked up P748 million in net revenues and handled significant projects for the National Power Corp., the Philippine Geothermal Inc., Siemens, Mirant, Manila Water Co., Maynilad Water Services Inc. and Meralco, among others.

The Meralco unit has four operating subsidiaries such as Miescor Builders Inc., Clark Electric Distribution Corp., Landbees Corp. and San Franscisco-based Miescor (USA) Inc.

LOPEZ

Miescor Builders generated revenues of P311 million in the last fiscal year ending June 30, 2001.

Through Clark Electric Distribution, a joint venture with the Clark Development Corp., Miescor maintains and operates the electric distribution system at the Clark Special Economic Zone in Pampanga.

Landbees Corp. was recently formed to explore opportunities in building and equipment maintenance. It handles the maintenance of Meralco's buildings and grounds along Ortigas Avenue and plans to service Meralco's 10 other operating centers and 29 branches all over its franchise area.

Miescor also operates a foreign subsidiary that provides engineering services to foreign clients such as Mitsubishi Electric Corp. of Japan and POLA of USA.

At present, Miescor is completing the mechanical and electrical works for Siemens on the San Lorenzo 500-megawatt combined cycle gas turbine power plant of First Gas. It is also installing waterlines and some water infrastructure projects in Pasig for the Ayalas' Manila Water Corp. It is also on the third year of its contract with Philippine Geothermal Inc. for mechanical, piping, civil and maintenance works for the Tiwi and Makban geothermal plants.

BSP to tighten screws on dirty money reports

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas is set to issue a circular this week ordering banks and other institutions it is regulating to follow a prescribed format in reporting suspicious transactions to the Anti-Money Laundering Council.

The circular covers banks, quasi-banks, trust entities, non-stock savings and loan associations, pawnshops, and similar institutions, including their subsidiaries.

Banks and other financial institutions are required under the anti-money laundering law to report suspicious transactions worth P4 million or higher.

In the new circular, the central bank is requiring banks to provide in detail supporting documents and retain these for five years.

These supporting papers must explain who are benefiting directly or indirectly from the onerous transactions.

The report must also indicate where the suspicious transactions are taking place, whether the possible violations are isolated or related to other transactions, if there are other accounts involved and in what currencies or instruments, and whether any information has been excluded and why.

Banks and other institutions regulated by the central bank are also being required to retain records of any confession, admission or explanation related to a possible violation, as well as any evidence of a cover-up or any attempt to deceive examiners.

Bangko Sentral Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes said the new circular would be included in the progress report that the country's representatives would discuss with the Financial Action Task Force next week.

Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura, who also heads the Anti-Money Laundering Council, will attend a meeting of FATF representatives in Asia this week in Brisbane, Australia.

SEC Chair Lilia Bautista will also attend another FATF meeting in the coming weeks.

Buenaventura said last week that the government's representatives would try to convince some influential members of the FATF to support the country's bid to be taken out of the list of economies tagged as uncooperative in the fight against money laundering.

The global watchdog against money laundering retained the Philippines on the list even after the country passed a law against the flow of dirty money in September 2001.

DOTC assures ADB airport expansion project on schedule

By Abigail L. Ho

THE DEPARTMENT of Transportation and Communications has assured the Asian Development Bank that the government is ready to start upgrading its airports in Mindanao and Palawan by October.

In a letter to ADB director for transportation and communication infrastructure, energy and financial services Patrick Giraud, Assistant Transportation Secretary Alan Tan said almost all requirements needed for the project to start were already in place.

"Our assessment reveals that the sites required for the civil works construction are available and civil works can commence in October 2002," Tan said.

The ADB is funding the "Third Airports Development Project," which the government is pursuing to upgrade its airports in Dipolog, Pagadian, Butuan, Cotabato and Sanga-Sanga in Mindanao, and Puerto Princesa in Palawan.

Tan, who is overseeing the implementation of the project, assured Giraud that the DOTC was on track with its preparations and land acquisitions.

Giraud earlier wrote the DOTC expressing its concern over the government's alleged failure to acquire lands necessary for the airport expansions.

Around 97 percent of the lands needed for the expansions were already government-controlled through already signed deeds of absolute sale, Tan said.

"A substantial number of the lots subject to acquisition are already in the physical possession of the government, being part of the existing support facilities and/or military facilities," Tan said.

"They have been, in fact, under the government's control and possession for more than 20 years now. The government is merely formalizing occupation thereof through the deeds of absolute sale and the payment of the purchase price," he added.

Tan said implementation of the civil works aspect of the project could proceed without delay as earlier scheduled.

"Without doubt, construction in Puerto Princesa can start by October 2002, while works in Cotabato and Butuan can commence by January 2003. Depending on the availability of counterpart funding in the national budget, the implementation of Dipolog, Pagadian and Sanga-Sanga airports may be deferred by one year," he said.

Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez had said the airport improvement project would not be put off as this could have "serious political implications" if delayed.

"This is because it is perceived by many Mindanao residents that their region is being neglected," he said.

World Bank agrees to finance $45-M MWSS sewerage project

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE WORLD Bank has agreed to finance the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System's $45-million, four-year water sewerage and sanitation project.

MWSS Deputy Administrator Macra Cruz told the INQUIRER that the project would be part of the World Bank's country assistance strategy.

The project will begin next year with the installation of sewers, according to Cruz.

The World Bank's country assistance strategy for the Philippines consists of 15 major development projects.

The World Bank is committed to providing some $350 million to $500 million for these projects.

Out of this amount, around $330 million are expected to be approved for disbursement by end-2002.

The new assistance package from the World Bank will likely include funds for its possible involvement in asset management companies to help strengthen the local financial system.

Also being lined up for World Bank assistance from 2002 to 2005 are urban development projects.

The World Bank is also considering helping local government units get wider access to the capital market.

At present, local government units are having a difficult time floating bonds due to the absence of a credit rating mechanism for them. They are then forced to become more self-reliant in raising funds for critical development projects.

The World Bank will also continue to extend funds for infrastructure development in the form of official development assistance to the national government.

A portion of the financial assistance will be earmarked for urban development.

Another area being studied is further development of information technology education in the country.

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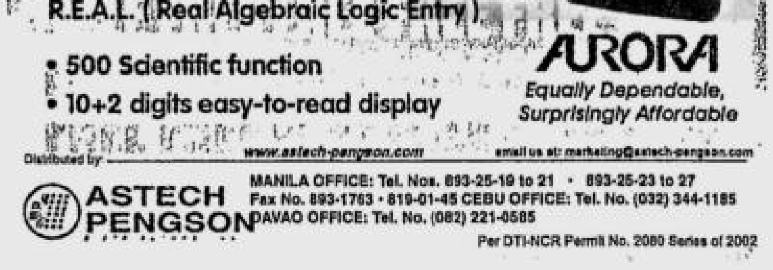

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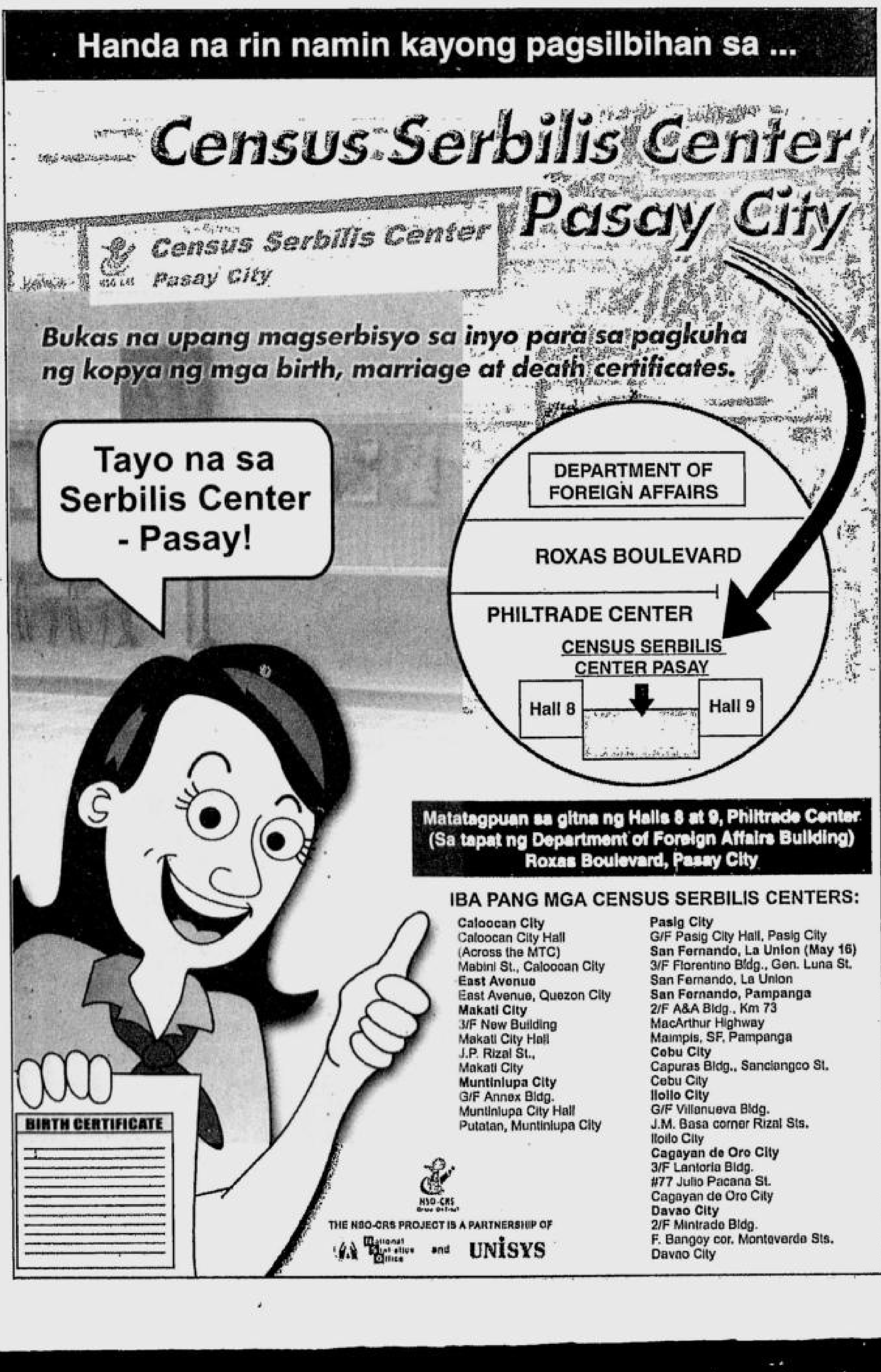

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Pasar to spend $20M for plant modernization

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PHILIPPINE Associated Smelting and Refining Corp. (Pasar) will spend $20 million to modernize and upgrade its facilities in Leyte as it moves to further broaden its export market.

Pasar, which is one of the biggest copper smelters in the region, is expected to implement the project for at least one month starting in September this year.

Pasar is gearing up to boost its sales to China (which already accounts for 30 percent of its total export sales) as well as increase its shipments beyond its current markets—South Korea, Thailand, Malaysian, Indonesia and Vietnam.

Pasar earlier signed a $47-million counter trade deal with the China Minmetals Group, one of Mainland China's biggest state-owned commodities importer and exporter.

Under the deal, Pasar will supply at least 24,000 metric tons of high quality Grade A copper cathodes to Minmetals for one year; open up negotiations with National Power Corp. to facilitate the swap of Pasar's copper with Minmetal's coal; and promote each other's products in the Philippines and China.

Pasar decided to go directly to one of its biggest buyers in China in order to gain a competitive edge over its Chilean and Japanese rivals in accessing the only growing market among the world's biggest economies.

Pasar's controlling shareholders—Glencore International AG and former Agriculture Secretary Carlos Dominguez—has already spent P600 million for the plant's turnaround shortly after taking over the company in 1999.

This includes P200 million spent for the installation of an acid rehabilitation facility to make the firm's operations environment friendly.

Glencore, one of the world's biggest commodities trader in the world, and Dominguez paid P3.2 billion for the National Development Corp.'s stake in Pasar and some P33 billion worth of receivables.

PAL expects profit this year

FLAG carrier Philippine Airlines Inc. said it would definitely be profitable again this fiscal year beginning April after posting at least P1.5 billion in losses in the previous year due to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States.

In a telephone interview last week, PAL president and chief operating officer Avelino Zapanta said PAL would have been in the black for the third straight year last fiscal year had it not for the global airline industry slowdown.

"We were successfully undergoing rehabilitation when Sept. 11 struck. But we'll definitely be profitable this year," he said.

On the first year of its rehabilitation, from 1999 to 2000, PAL posted a profit of P45.8 million for the first time in seven years. In the following fiscal year, it posted a net income of P419 million on revenues of P39.3 billion.

For the year 2001-2002, PAL aimed for about P1 billion in profit, but this was not achieved due to the downturn in the aviation industry. Because of this, Zapanta said the airline had shelved its plan to go public this year.

"According to the terms of our rehabilitation, we need three years of profitability to go public. But since we posted losses last fiscal year, this (going public) won't happen anymore," he said.

PAL, an airline controlled by beer and tobacco magnate Lucio Tan, recently bucked President Macapagal-Arroyo's statement that the government would re-take control of the company.

The President issued this statement on the premise that PAL was hampering the country's plan to open up its skies to foreign carriers in an effort to boost tourism.

Zapanta said Tan would not be willing to part with the company, even if the government had the money to buy him out, because of "sentimental value" and the effort the tycoon had put into the airline to save it from folding up in 1999.

"Besides, the government would only incur losses as a result of open skies. If it takes over PAL, it will have to absorb losses without being sure about the amount of tourism open skies will bring into the country," he added.

Additional tourist traffic as a result of open skies, he said, would not be enough to compensate for the passenger volume that larger foreign airlines would steal from local carriers.

Abigail L. Ho

RP-led program gets Apec support

THE PHILIPPINES gathered support from Apec-member economies and the World Bank in seeking assistance for developing countries in managing the transformation of their respective domestic industries.

Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel Roxas II said in a statement that there was a need for Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation and the WTO to further consider the effects of trade liberalization on middle-income countries.

He said capacity-building programs should also be realigned so that developing countries could manage the difficult adjustments that accompany trade liberalization. Roxas joined other trade ministers in a two-day Apec meeting in Mexico recently where they had dialogues with the World Bank and the World Trade Organization.

"As part of their (developing countries) commitment to liberalized trade, these economies have opened up their industry sectors to foreign competition. But they now have to rechannel the resources from the vulnerable industries to some other cutting edge enterprise. This, however, is a difficult task," Roxas said during the plenary session.

Other Apec members, particularly Malaysia through its Minister of Trade, Dato Rafidah, supported Roxas on this issue. Rafidah said that some developing countries were hesitant to liberalize their trade, attributing this to the difficulties that these economies expect to face should they open their trade borders.

The World Bank also responded positively to Roxas' statement saying that it might consider granting policy reform loans.

Roxas had separate dialogues with US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick and Australian Trade Minister Mark Vaile. Roxas to convey RP's concerns regarding better market share for Philippine tuna and the pending Import Risk Assessment (IRA) of Philippine pineapples and bananas in Australia.

RP-LED/ B11

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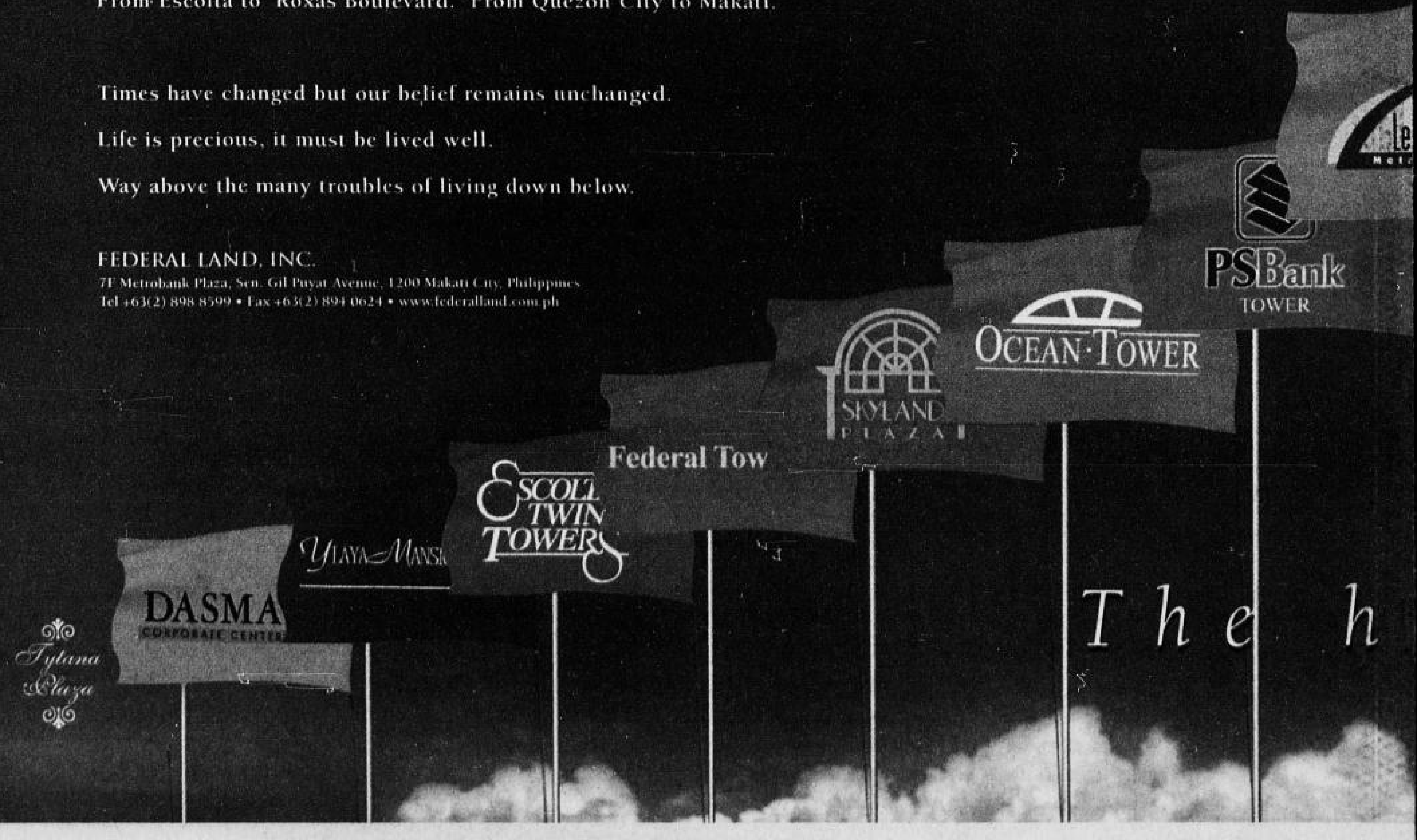


GMA posts 37% drop in income

GMA Network Inc. realized a net income of P28 million in April, which was 37 percent lower than last year's bottom line.

The company said this might be lower than previous year's profit but the amount was sufficient to put the company back in the black with a year-to-date net income of P26 million.

For the month of April, the company generated gross revenues of P296 million, P3 million or one percent better than last year's performance of P293 million. Radio provided the needed boost as its revenues grew by P4 million or 27 percent over last year's figures. Television sales performance matched previous year's level at P278 million.

On a year-to-date basis, the company's gross revenues were still 2 percent down from P1.04 billion last year to P1.02 billion this year. Cash operating expenses in the first four months went up by P96 million or 25 percent, from P382 million last year to P478 million this year. A 24-percent increase in production costs and talent fees over last year's figures contributed the bulk of the increase in cash operating expenses. Early this year, the company produced two daily soaps, "Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga" and "Kung Mawawala Ka" and a weekly game show "The One Million Peso Videoke Challenge." Also contributing to the increase in cash operating expenses are the adjustment in the employees' salaries and allowances (36 percent) and the 122-percent increase in taxes and licenses.

Earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization (Ebitda) for April was at P95 million, 28-percent less than last year's P131 million. On a cumulative basis, the Ebitda declined by 29 percent from last year's P428 million to P304 million this year.

GMA president and CEO Felipe L. Gozon is confident that with GMA's recovery in April, it could achieve the targets set for this year. Gozon said GMA's soaps introduced this year were up in the ratings charts and have started reaping revenues. New innovations in programming and production have also resulted in better numbers. A number of GMA news and entertainment programs have already surpassed those of its nearest competitor, ratings-wise.

Gozon considers GMA's performance in the second half of March and in April outstanding especially considering the harsh advertising environment.

STRONG LIQUOR SALES

La Tondeña's profit up 39%

LA TONDEÑA Distillers Inc., the hard liquor unit of food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp., posted a 39-percent increase in net income in the first four months of the year to P543 million from year-ago level.

In a statement issued Friday, SMC attributed LTDI's higher profits to strong liquor sales on the revenue side, and on the company's cost containment efforts and lower interest expense, on the expenditure side.

Despite the divestment of its water and juice businesses, LTDI's operating income rose by 3 percent during the four-month period to P895 million.

Analysts said LTDI shares were becoming attractive again for the first time since the transfer of its non-liquor businesses to affiliate Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc. due to strong earnings and its ongoing shares buyback program.

After completing the repurchase of 10 percent of its shares, LTDI approved the buyback of another 5 percent.

Some analysts believe that the rush into buying back shares from the market was in anticipation of the entry of a new investor who will buy into LTDI. Officials earlier confirmed that LTDI was willing to spend up to $500 million for new acquisitions, with the first deal over a domestic liquor company likely to be closed in the next few months.

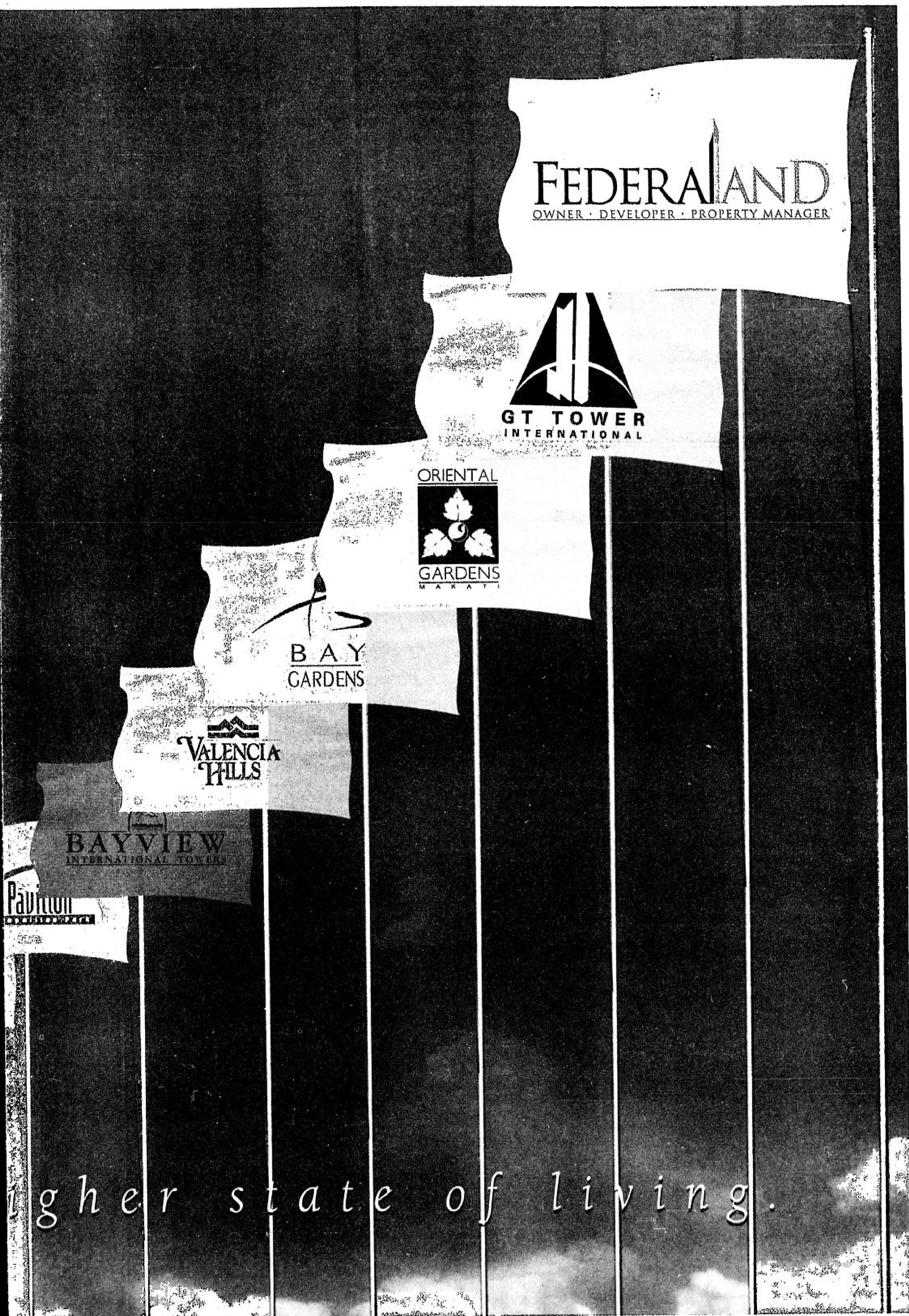
SMC likewise reported good earnings across all businesses, which were attributed to overall "efforts to increase volumes and maximize operational efficiencies in the face of the challenges of a slow economic recovery."

It said the Philippine beer business rose 35 percent to P422 million, bringing the four-month income to P1.69 billion or 3 percent better than a year ago. For the month of April, sales revenues jumped by 30 percent to P2.25 billion from a year ago.

Its international beer operations yielded a 5-percent increase in sales volume in April. This was a reversal of the 3-percent decline registered in the first quarter.

In the meantime, SMC said the year-to-date operating income of the San Miguel Food Group rose by 63 percent to P342 million from last year's level. For the month of April alone, the group's operating income rose by 37 percent to P92 million.

For its part, San Miguel Packaging Products posted a 5-percent rise in sales revenue to P4.9 billion compared to the four-month period last year on volume improvements in glass, plastics and cans.



Asian leadership forum set for June 25

BUSINESS-WEEK and InvestHK will hold the BusinessWeek's flagship event in Asia, The 11th Annual Asia Leadership Forum, on June 25 to 26 at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Hong Kong.

The forum continues to provide an elite gathering of business leaders and policy makers from around the world and across the region with a platform to share ideas and develop insights on critical economic, political and social issues affecting the growth of business in Asia.

This year's forum theme, "Transcending Hierarchy: Leadership in an Empowered World," examines the changing concept of leadership at a time when consumers, employees and entire communities are being empowered by the forces of technology, globalization and democratization.

The featured speakers are former Philippine President Fidel V. Ramos; World Trade Organization Director General-Designate and former Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand Dr. Supachai Panitchpakdi; John Chen, Sybase CEO, United States, and Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Chief Secretary for Administration Donald Tsang.

RP-led

From page B10

The US Congress is currently considering the Andean Trade Preferences Expansion Act (Atpea) which seeks to expand the trade preferences granted by the United States to the Andean countries, as a means of helping these countries wean their economies away from illegal drug importation. One of the incentives to be granted under the ALPHA is the duty-free importation of canned tuna from Colombia, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, and Venezuela.

"If passed, this is seen to adversely affect Philippine canned tuna exports to the United States which accounts for 26 percent of the US market," Roxas said. The United States, despite the 35-percent tariff imposed on tuna in oil and 6-12 percent tariff on tuna in brine, remains the single biggest market for Philippine tuna accounting for 29 percent of total exports in 1991.

Letter to H.E. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

Your Adviser Wants Several Changes in the Piatco Contract. But Piatco Is Not Cooperating.

Get Out of the Dilemma: Fire Pantaleon Alvarez. Cancel the Piatco Contract.

Piatco is not cooperating. In a letter by Presidential Adviser Gloria Tan-Climaco, she wrote that she has had great difficulty in getting information from Piatco. Excerpts from her letter: "... all supporting contracts and documents... have not been furnished nor shown to us, DESPITE REPEATED WRITTEN AND VERBAL REQUESTS."

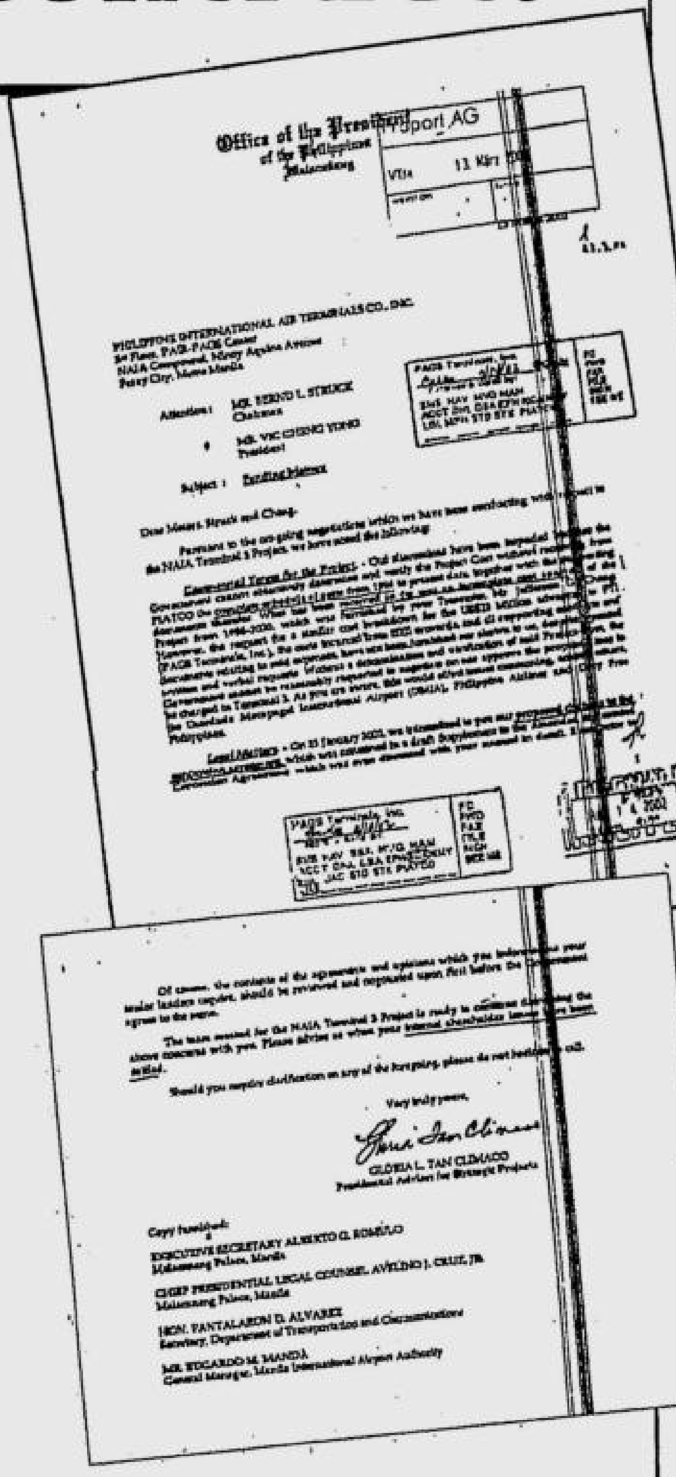
Government cannot make changes without Piatco's consent, even if the provisions in the Contract are highly onerous and grossly disadvantageous to the government.

Why? Government will be in breach. And government will consequently be liable for hundreds of millions of pesos in damages. Piatco made sure that it has the upper hand over the Philippine government if this happens. That explains the amendments introduced into the Contract during the previous Administration.

Ironically, DOTC Secretary-Designate Pantaleon Alvarez has boasted that this contract is "the best deal the government ever entered into!"

Just to demonstrate to you and to our people how riddled this Piatco Contract with objectionable provisions, listen to your very own Adviser, Secretary Gloria Tan-Climaco:

1. The redefinition of Attendant Liabilities, Force Majeure, Incremental and Consequential Costs, Losses, Consents which require the Government's assistance in obtaining Non-Public Utility Revenues, and Public Utility Revenues (the latter 2 items, for purposes of making the items therein consistent with the Bid Documents and to specify that Public Utility Revenues should be subject to the 12% maximum rate of return on rate base, consistent with the BOT Law and its Implementing Rules and Regulations)
2. Limitation of the right of the Concessionaire (PIATCO) to expand the Development Facility
3. Inclusion of a requirement to the Concessionaire that all its tenant agreements and concession contracts must be bid out in a fair and transparent manner
4. Extension of the 25-year concession period only in accordance with the laws, rules and regulations in force at the time of renewal or extension, and not merely through the approval by the Secretary of the Department of Transportation and Communications and Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) Board of Directors
5. Obligation of the Concessionaire to honor all existing agreements of MIAA with third parties in relation to international passenger terminal operations, which agreements may be valid beyond In-Service Date
6. Deletion of the Exclusivity Provision and the restriction on the development of other international passenger terminal airport facilities in Luzon. In relation to this, the Claw-Back Provision whereby the Annual Guaranteed Payments (AGPs) and, thereafter, the Percentage Share of Government in the Gross Revenues (% Share) may be reduced depending on the number of international passengers which use of the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport (DMIA), should be deleted. Accordingly, the provision which makes the granting of benefits and incentives to other international passenger terminals, and the provision which makes any act of Government in relation to aviation which would cause economic harm to the Concessionaire, a Change in Circumstance which would grant the Concessionaire the right to reduce the AGPs and the $ Share or commence termination proceedings should be deleted.
7. Restrictions on the developments by the Government of areas adjacent to the Site should be clarified to refer only to those which directly compete with the indispensable public utility functions of Terminal 3
8. The Development Facility may be furnished as security to the Concessionaire's lenders only if the assignment or encumbrance shall not impair the obligations of the Concessionaire in the agreement, or prevent it from complying with said obligations (i.e., turn over the Development Facility at the end of the concession period), or deprive the public of its use
9. Clarify that the only obligation of the Government with respect to the Concessionaire's Senior Lenders is to negotiate a direct agreement. The approval of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas shall be required for this agreement. The mechanism and requirement for the appointment of a nominee or transferee shall be modified. The duty of Government to pay the Attendant Liabilities should the Senior Lenders withdraw the appointment of a nominee or transferee should be reviewed as this may constitute a direct guarantee, which is prohibited for this Project which is an unsolicited proposal under the BOT Law.
10. The Concessionaire shall continue to be liable for defects in its original architectural and engineering plans notwithstanding the Government's disapproval of proposed changes.
11. The provision requiring that all insurances should first be applied for the repair, restoration and/or replacement of the Development Facility should be reinstated. The interest of the Senior Lenders and the Concessionaire should be subordinated to the interest of the Government in the repair, restoration and/or replacement of the Development Facility. The provision requiring the Concessionaire to be liable for cost deficiencies should the insurance proceeds be insufficient should be reinstated.
12. A Quality Assurance Inspector for the Operations Phase should be appointed.
13. An Operations Security for the Operations Phase shall be required, just as a performance security for the construction phase of Terminal 3 was required.
14. The Concessionaire should now give firm plans to operationalize the preference given to the hiring of MIAA employees in Terminal 3.
15. The US$20 Passenger Terminal Fee shall be adjusted to reflect the true intention at the time the concession agreement was entered into.
16. With respect to Public Utility Revenues, the Government shall retain its right to regulate and approve adjustments during the regular adjustment period (i.e., every 2 years). However, on its own initiative, the Government may also make interim adjustment should the factors used in the Parametric Formula warrant the same
17. With respect to Non-Public Utility Revenues, the Government's right to intervene should be reinstated.
18. Recognition of the functions of the Commission on Audit with respect to the Project
19. Inclusion of a No-Fault /Mutual Termination Procedure
20. Termination procedures, specially where the Concessionaire can continue operating the Facility beyond the In-Service Date shall be modified
21. Transfer of the Site and all properties included in the costing of the project should be transferred to the Government or its designee upon termination
22. Government's right to participate in the testing of equipment should be reinstated. Accordingly, the Timetable (Annex L) and the Certificate of Completion (Annex C) should be revised accordingly.
23. The obligation of the Concessionaire to warrant that its equipment are fit for the purpose and do not have patent or inherent defects at the time the Facility is transferred to the Government should be reinstated.
24. Specify that in the event of arbitration, the governing law should be Philippine Law and the rules to govern the proceedings should be the rules of the International Chamber of Commerce supplemented by the Philippine Rules of Court.
25. Specification of instances when the Concession Period is deemed suspended
26. Modification of Government's warranties
27. Payment of liabilities should be made in accordance with existing laws, rules, regulations and policies of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
28. Modification of Liquidated Damages (Annexes F and G)



Office of the President of the Philippines
Malacañang

PHILIPPINE INTERNATIONAL AIR TERMINALS CO., INC.

Attention: MR. BERND L. STRUCK
Chairman

MR. VIC CHENG YONG
President

Subject: Pending Matters

Dear Messrs. Struck and Cheng:

Very truly yours,

GLORIA L. TAN CLIMACO
Presidential Adviser for Strategic Projects

Copy furnished:
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ALBERTO G. ROMULO
Malacanang Palace, Manila
CHIEF PRESIDENTIAL LEGAL COUNSEL AVELINO J. CRUZ, JR.
Malacanang Palace, Manila
HON. PANTALEON D. ALVAREZ
Secretary, Department of Transportation and Communications
MR. EDGARDO M. MANDA
General Manager, Manila International Airport Authority

Madame President, the Philippine Government is in a dilemma.

Only you, Madame President, can free the government from this dilemma.

Fire Mr. Pantaleon Alvarez. Cancel the Piatco Contract.

ADVT.

Microsoft judge disallows memo seeking retaliation against rivals

WASHINGTON—The federal judge considering antitrust sanctions against Microsoft Corp. said on Friday she would not consider a Microsoft memo in which a company executive urged retaliation against uncooperative computer makers.

US District Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly denied a request by the nine states suing Microsoft to admit the August 2000 email memo into evidence, saying it would "prejudice" the company's defense.

The states, which were pressing for severe sanctions against the company, had asked the judge to reconsider an earlier decision that shielded Microsoft chair Bill Gates from the email message during his testimony.

"It is certain that (Microsoft) would suffer considerable prejudice if the court were to abandon its prior ruling," Kollar-Kotelly said in her ruling.

In the memo, Microsoft senior vice president Joachim Kempin complained to Gates and other senior executives that computer chipmaker Intel Corp. was encouraging computer makers to support the rival Linux operating system and funding development of new devices that would work with Linux.

Kempin said Microsoft should withhold technical information from Intel and "work underground" to promote its competitors in the computer chip industry, according to portions of the memo disclosed in the states' legal filing.

Kempin recommended that computer makers who were not "friendly" with Microsoft should be hit "harder than in the past with anti-Linux actions."

Microsoft dismissed the memo as "irrelevant" because the company never acted on Kempin's ideas.

The nine states, which have rejected a proposed settlement of the four-year case, say strong sanctions are needed to prevent Microsoft from continuing to use its Windows operating system monopoly to bully competitors.

Originally developed in Finland and updated by programmers around the world under its open source status, Linux has been touted as a possible alternative to Windows but has never been widely used on personal computers.

The states said the strategy suggested by Kempin was similar to the one Microsoft used to force Intel to stop working with Sun Microsystems Inc. several years earlier—work that would have threatened the Windows monopoly. *Reuters*

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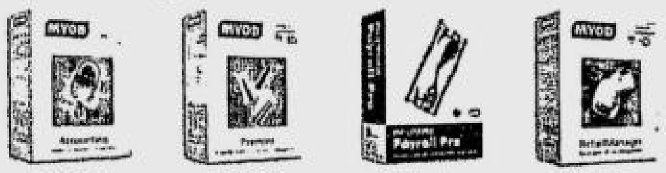

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Largest US farm cooperative files for bankruptcy

KANSAS CITY—Farmland Industries Inc., the largest US farmer-owned cooperative, said Friday it filed for bankruptcy protection, unable to meet demands for immediate debt payments amid a slumping farm economy.

The bankruptcy filing came after Smithfield Foods Inc., the largest US pork producer, failed to convince Farmland to accept an offer to buy the cooperative's beef and pork operations. The two companies had discussions on Friday, Farmland said.

Cash-strapped Farmland had been struggling to meet a $10-million loan payment due Friday on its $500-million credit facility and to bring its books into compliance with cash reserve requirements set by its lenders.

The Kansas City-based cooperative told reporters late Friday that it had secured debtor-in-possession financing from a banking group led by Deutsche Bank AG to restructure under Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection, but it did not give an amount. Farmland has sought financing of up to $430 million, according to its filing with the US Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Missouri.

"We fought to pull ourselves through this time of tight liquidity. Regrettably, we were unable to overcome one significant challenge—aggressive early redemption demands from our subordinated debt holders," Farmland chief executive Robert Terry said.

The decision by Farmland to file for bankruptcy could send tremors through the farm economy because the sprawling cooperative has some 1,700 smaller cooperative members who, in turn, have thousands more farmer owners in the United States, Canada and Mexico. Besides meat, Farmland's some $12 billion in annual sales come from products ranging from crop fertilizers to petroleum products. *Reuters*

Glaxo may bid for Bristol-Myers

LONDON/NEW YORK—GlaxoSmithKline Plc shares hit a 4-1/2-year low on Friday after a report that Europe's top drug maker recently held talks with Bristol-Myers Squibb Co. about a possible merger that would create the world's largest seller of prescription medicines.

The New York Times said the two firms, widely tipped as merger partners recently, held preliminary discussions at Bristol-Myers' Princeton, New Jersey, offices in the last two weeks, citing executives close to the talks.

In London, GSK spokesperson Alan Chandler declined to comment on the report but said the British company had no plans to issue a statement, suggesting any deal was not imminent.

"My impression is that people are connecting the dots in a way that could be right or wrong, but I don't believe there are real discussions currently," a source close to Glaxo told Reuters.

Those sentiments were echoed on Friday by a person close to the companies, who called reports of anything happening in the near-term as "highly exaggerated."

Bristol-Myers declined to comment on the report.

The New York-based company's stock has tumbled nearly 30 percent since the start of the year following a failed high-stakes gamble on ImClone Systems Inc.'s cancer drug, which prompted a management shake-up and threatens to unseat chief executive Peter Dolan.

A combined company would have a market value of around $190 billion and annual sales of $48 billion, making it the largest pharmaceutical business in the world by market share, though still lagging Pfizer Inc. by market capitalization.

But investors have been lukewarm to the idea of bringing together two wounded corporate giants with relatively weak new drug line-ups and stiff generic competition for key medicines.

"It could be the case of just putting together companies with unexciting product lines, which won't make an attractive proposition," said Mark Embley of Singer & Friedlander Investment Management. *Reuters*

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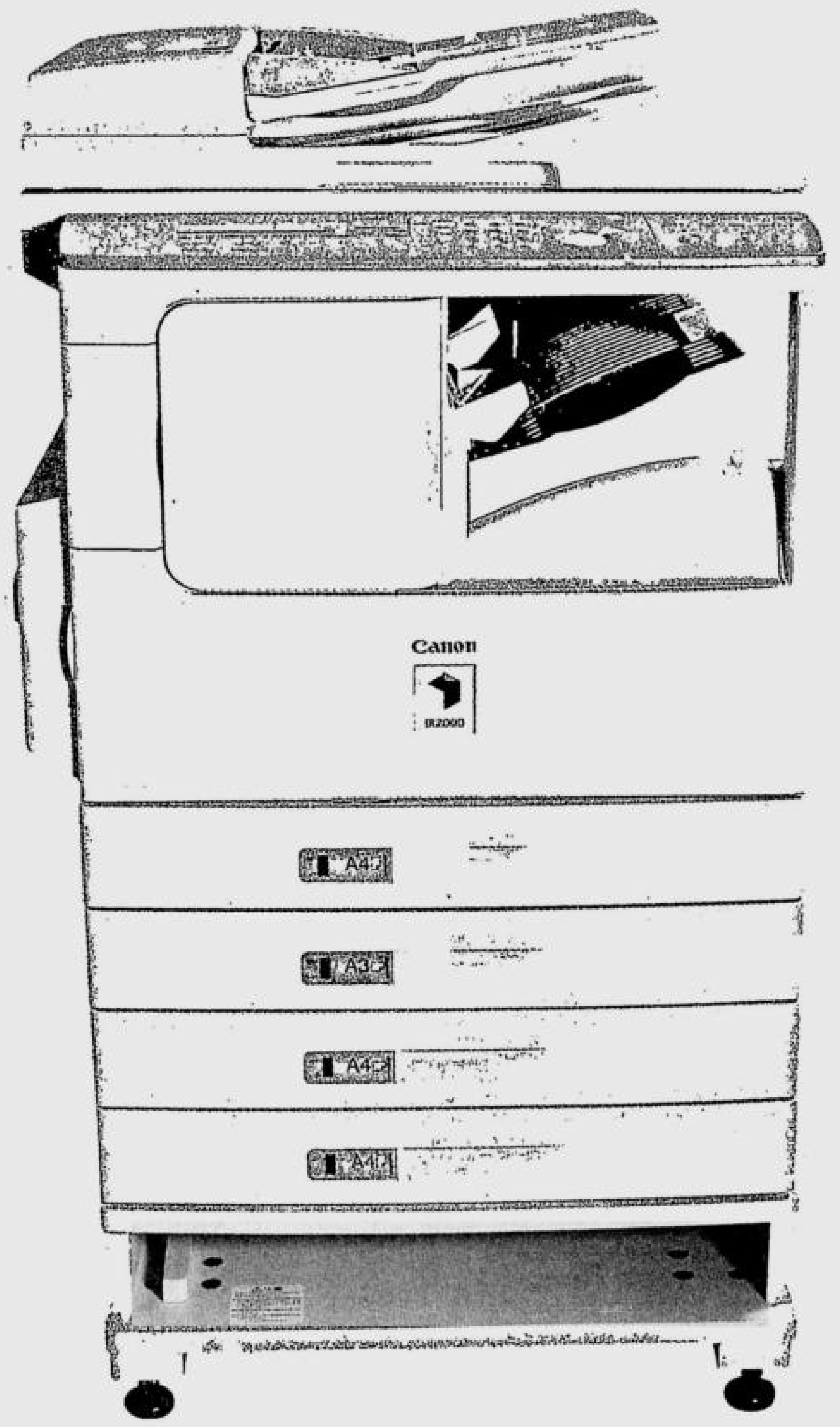

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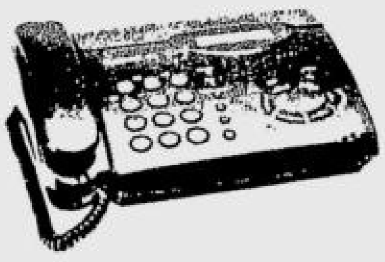

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BEST IN 19 YEARS

US production data signal start of recovery

WASHINGTON—US manufacturing, which suffered the most during last year's recession, is on a firmer footing and, combined with stunning productivity gains and better consumer sentiment, demonstrate the start of a sound economic recovery.

"The recovery in the manufacturing sector means that the weakest part of the US economy is now on the mend," said Mark Vitner, a senior economist at Wachovia Securities.

Four reports on Friday helped to reinforce views, flagging in recent days, that the Federal Reserve might raise rates in August. The Fed is next due to discuss interest rates on June 25 and 26.

Manufacturing on rebound

Manufacturing in the Midwest jumped to a three-year high in May, according to the National Association of Purchasing Management-Chicago. Its index surged to 60.8, the highest level since April 1999. Last month, the index came in at 54.7.

The reading in May marked the fourth consecutive month above 50, which pointed to an expanding regional manufacturing economy. A reading below 50 signals contraction.

"The recovery in the manufacturing sector means that weakest part of the US economy is now on the mend," Vitner said.

Meanwhile, the Commerce Department said orders for US manufactured items in April posted their biggest rise since October 2001, gaining a larger-than-expected 1.2 percent to $323.87 billion.

That report also showed that business investment, closely watched by Fed policymakers because it was crucial for a sustained recovery, was on the mend.

Orders for machinery rose 4.5 percent in the month, their biggest rise since March 2000, while orders for electrical equipment and appliances were up 9.6 percent. Demand for computer and electronic products was up 3 percent.

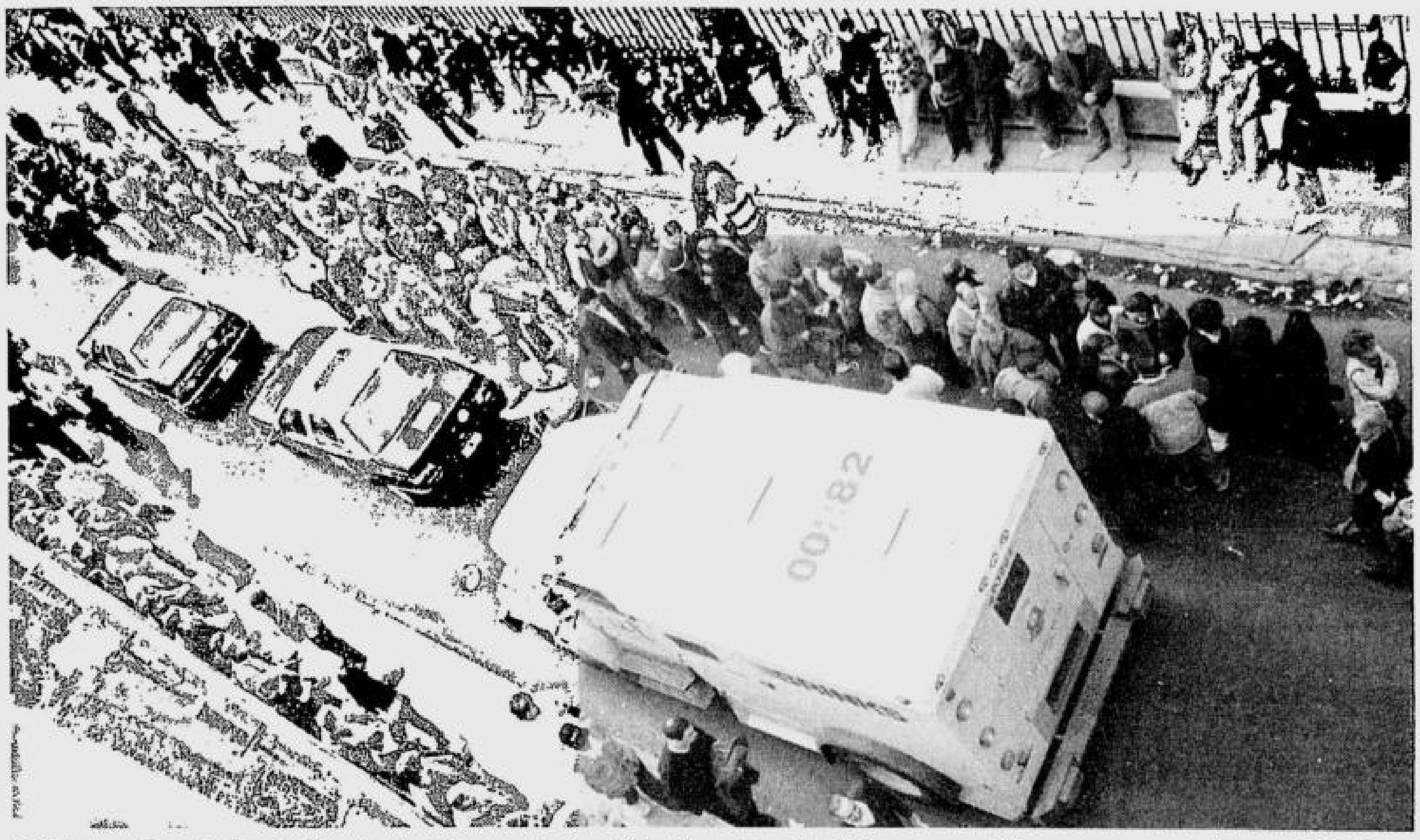
"The third cylinder of the economic engine—capital spending—has really begun to fire, and this is a signal of improving business confidence," said Sung Won Sohn, chief economist at Wells Fargo.

Productivity surges

There was other good news for the economy. A Labor Department report showed productivity rocketed ahead in the first quarter, rising 8.4 percent as profit-seeking American businesses squeezed more out of their workers. This met expectations, even though it was slightly below the previously reported 8.6-percent rise.

"Rising productivity means that corporate profits are beginning to improve and that is a necessary precondition for an improvement in employment," said Vitner.

Reuters



LONG rows form in front of the Central Bank de la Republica Argentina. The US currency at the government bank costs P3.45 for purchase and P3.53 for the sale, while exchange houses charge P3.53 for the purchase and P3.63 for the sale in the first hours of the afternoon.

AFP

Canada's GDP grew 1.5%

MONTREAL—Canada's gross domestic product grew 1.5 percent in the first quarter of fiscal 2002 over the last three months of 2001, marking the greatest growth in the economy since the fourth quarter of 1999, Statistics Canada said Friday.

A hot housing market, a slowdown in inventory depletion and a rebound of exports and manufacturing were keys to the quarter's growth, which more than doubled action in the previous quarter.

"Manufacturing reversed five quarters of decline, propelled by makers of information and communications technology and transportation equipment as well as chemical and wood products," the federal agency said in a statement.

"Renewed economic strength at home and south of the border ended a prolonged contraction of the volume of international trade."

Corporate profits rebounded 13.8 percent in the first quarter, recovering almost half the ground lost since the first quarter of 2001. Profit gains were widespread, with notable advances in manufacturing and construction as well as massive clearings of inventory at higher prices, notably in wood products, primary metals and refined petroleum.

AFP

Low-key pain killer gains big on small ad spending

NEW YORK—Arthritis sufferers are depicted in television commercials as happy people who have gotten a new lease on life by taking the right drug. A song playing in one ad urges patients to "Celebrate."

With their big marketing budgets and hard-to-miss promotions, prescription drugs Celebrex and Vioxx have carved out a huge market in painkillers.

But the makers of other arthritis drugs, such as Mobic, are the ones that now have something to celebrate, after quietly gaining ground with comparatively minuscule ad spending for products that offer similar benefits for patients.

All are trying to cash in on the huge and growing market for arthritis medications, expected to expand as aging baby boomers begin to experience the pain of the joint-crippling disease.

Pharmacia Corp. and partner Pfizer Inc. spent $131.5 million on direct-to-consumer advertising for Celebrex in 2001, according to research firms Verispan Scott-Levin and CMR, while Merck and Co. Inc. spent $135.3 million on Vioxx.

By comparison, Boehringer Ingelheim, which makes Mobic, and US partner Abbott Laboratories Inc. spent $1.8 million on consumer advertising last year, a pittance compared with Merck and Pharmacia.

"They outspend everybody," said Ken Herman, product director for immunology and central nervous system drugs at Boehringer Ingelheim, who has the intimidating task of promoting Mobic in the face of big-time spending by the makers of Celebrex and Vioxx.

Celebrex posted sales of $3.1 billion last year and Vioxx generated $2.6 billion, dwarfing sales of about $200 million for Mobic despite its 10-percent price discount relative to the big two.

But the wide disparity between the drug behemoths and their privately owned German rival can't be traced solely to publicity spending—it also stems from scientific classifications.

The central advantage boasted by Pharmacia and Merck is that their drugs are easier on the stomach than traditional arthritis drugs. Several older painkillers among a class of medicines called non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) have been linked to ulcers or stomach bleeding incidents, but Vioxx and Celebrex, part of a new class of NSAIDs called COX-2 inhibitors, are designed to lower the incidence of ulcers.

The US Food and Drug Administration declined to give Mobic the COX-2 inhibitor designation, but clinical studies from Boehringer showed Mobic also caused less ulcers and stomach problems than older NSAIDs, just like Vioxx and Celebrex.

"Because of the perceptions with COX-2 inhibition having this gold-standard safety effect, the challenge for us is really getting back and talking with physicians and patients about the clinical profile and experience with our product," Herman said, adding that more than 45 million patients had taken Mobic.

And Mobic has not been associated with the swirling controversy over cardiovascular risks that have plagued the COX-2 class, particularly Vioxx, and slowed sales growth.

Reuters

Management Association of the Philippines
BayanTrade
MAP INTERNATIONAL CEO CONFERENCE
JUNE 19, 2002 MAKATI SHANGRI-LA HOTEL

The Management Association of the Philippines (MAP), in association with BayanTrade, will conduct its prestigious annual management conference June 19, 2002. The conference will be attended exclusively by CEOs and other C-level executives, and has as its focus three central issues. The first of these issues is leadership. What kinds of leaders are required to build Asia's future industry champions? The second issue is the enterprise itself. What qualities will industry-leading enterprises exhibit? The third issue is community, an issue championed by BayanTrade, which builds and connects online communities. What will be the nature of the relationship between the enterprise and the various elements of the ecosystem in which it operates?

Each of these issues will be discussed from three perspectives: competence, character, and contribution in five panels composed of world-class international and local speakers and two plenary sessions.

Leadership
What is the role executives should play?

PANEL 1
MANAGEMENT: LEADING THE NEW ASIAN CORPORATION
"Management: Leading the New Asian Corporation, will examine the role executives play in steering their organizations through dramatically changing circumstances towards sustained success. Among the qualities of leadership to be discussed are the role of strategic insight, values and integrity, accountability, and personal commitment to good government.

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PANELISTS:
Charles Tseng, President, Korn/Ferry International
Erramon Aboitiz, EVP, Aboitiz Equity Ventures
Nina Aguas, Country Business Manager, Citibank Retail
Clement Wang, Associate Director for Research, National University of Singapore

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
ROBERT S. KAPLAN
AUTHOR OF THE BALANCED SCORECARD
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Argentine president agrees to partly lift hated bank freeze

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina—Argentine President Eduardo Duhalde agreed on Friday to partly lift a bank deposit freeze that had been a lightning rod of public anger against the government and paralyzed an economy already mired in a four-year recession.

Duhalde signed a decree offering to swap P30 billion of term deposits ($8.3 billion, or half of all accounts) for government bonds as a way out of a six-month-long freeze instituted in December to end a run on banks that threatened to topple a frail financial system.

With the banking system nearly collapsing after a January currency devaluation, what savers will not get back is cash despite daily protests from middle-class doctors to pensioners who are seeing their life savings gobbled up by the despised curbs.

Deposit-holders who do not want bonds will be given bank certificates that can be used to buy goods such as properties and cars and pay bank debts, a way the government hopes will boost sluggish consumer demand in Latin America's No. 3 economy.

The end of the deposit freeze—as well as cuts in deficit spending by provincial governments and reforms to economic laws—was one of several conditions set by the International Monetary Fund to give billions of dollars in aid.

The freeze, which destroyed in one fell swoop confidence in Argentine banks and helped sparked the resignation of then-President Fernando de la Rua, has been described as the worst ever policy decision by an Argentine government.

Coupled with a default on part of the government's $140-billion public debt, it robbed firms of credit and aggravated a recession that helped pushed one in four of the workforce out of work. One in two Argentines live below the poverty line, etching a living on a few dollars a day.

In December, hundreds of thousands of mainly middle class Argentines rallied on streets against the freeze, helping to force two presidents, including De la Rua, to resign in quick succession.

The freeze is one of the main reasons for Argentines' hatred of politicians, most of whom are too scared of being seen in public for fear of being attacked by mobs. Since the freeze, Congress has been ringed by steel barriers and riot police.

Polls show that most Argentines will never put savings back in banks.

Reuters

Fed governor says US banking system is sound

SALT LAKE CITY—The US banking system is in good shape and the aftermath of Sept. 11 is a proving ground for the solidity of the payment structure, Federal Reserve Governor Mark Olson said on Friday.

"You could never come up with an event that would more clearly state the resiliency of our payment system and sources of liquidity that we have in the system and the flexibility under fire that we really need," Olson told an audience of state-level bank regulators during questioning.

"It has expanded what we will think of in terms of range of options that could conceivably happen. We would never have dreamed that there would be a period of time when airplanes would not fly for three or four days in this country," he added.

In his prepared remarks, Olson said he thought the US bank system was healthy even after last year's slump. "The condition of the banking industry, including community banks, is sound. Capital earnings and asset quality have improved for banks of all sizes from the smallest segment of the industry (less than $50 million) to the largest," which have more than $10 billion, Olson said.

Reuters

GERMAN telephone operator MobilCom chair Gerhard Schmid during the company's shareholder's meeting in Hamburg. French telecommunications giant France Telecom, currently at loggerheads with MobilCom, is on the point of taking full control of the German firm and booting out Schmid.

AFP

Japan goes solo with sneak yen-selling intervention in US

NEW YORK—Japan's monetary authorities staged a sneak yen-selling intervention during US hours Friday without help from their counterparts at the Federal Reserve, a move analysts said was not surprising.

"It's possible Japan did not want to get the Fed involved because they were afraid a request might be received coolly," said Sean Callow, a currency strategist at IDEAglobal, while noting the Fed certainly would have cooperated if asked.

"It's also possible that Japan wanted to do it on their own to avoid politicizing the issue in the United States. The Fed intervening would have had the media asking questions and opening up a whole new level of jawboning (on dollar policy) that is not necessary," he said.

Japan's Ministry of Finance confirmed the Bank of Japan bought dollars for yen during US hours Friday following waves of intervention in Asia and Europe overnight.

Dealers said there were no signs the BOJ acted through banks in the United States and suggested it placed orders with overnight desks of dealing banks in Tokyo. The MOF did not say how the intervention was done.

Strong dollar

Dealers said the Fed aiding of the BOJ, even it were simply at Japan's request, might have been inferred by the market as reflecting a desire on the part of the government for a stronger dollar.

US officials repeatedly have maintained that a strong dollar is in US interests, while taking pains to avoid suggesting that they want the dollar to be stronger than it is now.

Indeed, in an interview published in the Wall Street Journal's online edition Friday, White House economic adviser Lawrence Lindsey shrugged of the dollar's recent sharp declines against the euro. He noted the dollar on a trade-weighted basis was just 3 percent off its top hit earlier this year, a peak which put it 33 percent above levels in 1995.

"You don't get the sense that anybody sees a major issue in this administration with the dollar," said one market watcher.

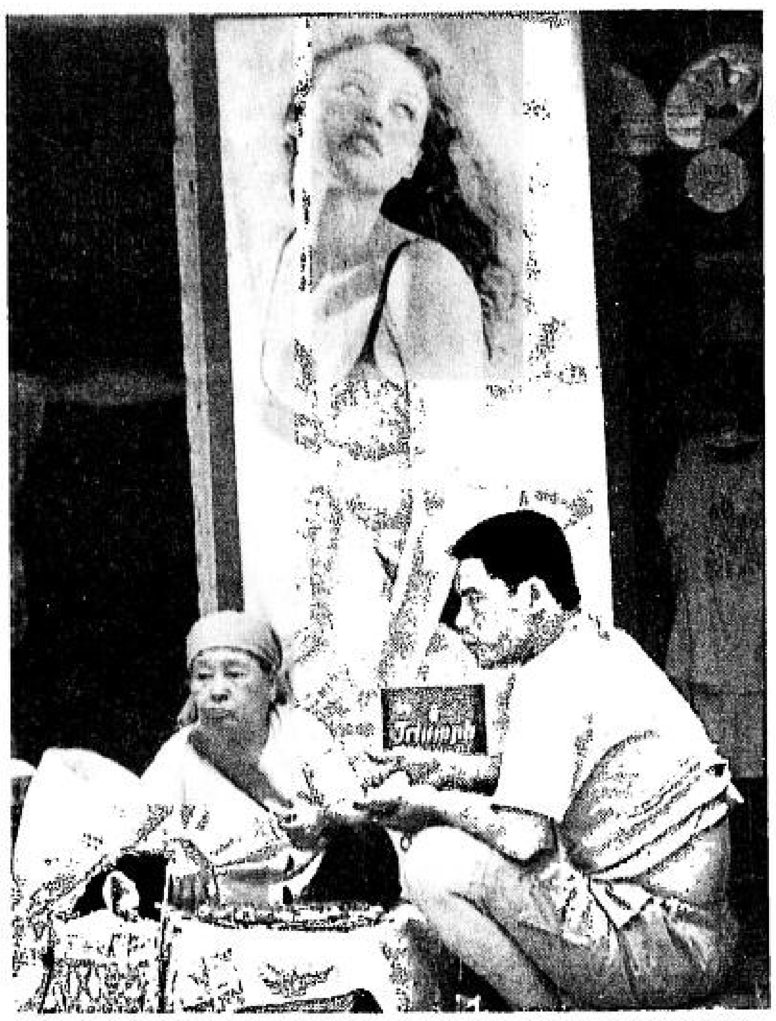
"That only happens when you have major moves. I wouldn't exclude it if we saw a very weak dollar. It's hard to argue that we have a very weak dollar."

Japan is worried the yen's roughly 8-percent appreciation versus the dollar this year will hurt its exports, which have been a key driver in the economy's recovery.

But traders say this is Japan's problem and not a major worry for either the United States or Europe.

There has been no sign the European Central Bank has aided Japan when it intervened during European hours.

"It seems that Japan is quite happy to go it alone," said IDEAglobal's Callow. "If they really want to get the others on board, then they can lobby the G7 (Group of Seven leading industrial nations) when it meets in June. Historically, that is how they have done it."



A MAN sits eating his breakfast at a stick rice vendor's roadside stall on the pavement of a street in downtown Hanoi. It is rare to find out a little space in the Vietnamese capital's streets, where there are no street vendors selling something. AFP

Asiana, LOT, Spanair to be part of Star Alliance

SHANGHAI—The Star Alliance said on Saturday South Korea 's Asiana Airlines, troubled Polish airline PLL LOT and Spain's Spanair would become members in the next six to 12 months.

"Work will commence immediately on the integration of Asiana Airlines of South Korea, LOT Polish Airlines and Spanair of Spain into Star Alliance," the global network said in a statement.

It said the airlines were expected to become members in the next six to 12 months.

The 14-member global airline network, led by United Airlines and German carrier Lufthansa, coordinates flight timetables, services and frequent flyer points for member airlines.

Fourteen-year-old Asiana Airlines, 30 percent owned by Korean tiremaker Kumho Industrial, has a fleet of 64 aircraft and 8,000 staff. It carried 12 million passengers last year.

It operates in the shadow of much larger flag carrier Korean Air Lines, a member of the SkyTeam Alliance.

Majority state-owned LOT Polish Airlines has 51 aircraft and 4,355 staff and carried 3.2 million passengers last year. *Reuters*

Korea exports rise in May on telecoms

SEOUL—South Korea's May exports rose sharply from a year ago on brisk sales of wireless telecom equipment and electronics, and the trend is expected to continue in June, the commerce ministry said on Saturday.

It also forecast double-digit export growth in the second half but warned this could be hit by the stronger won.

Exports rose 7.8 percent in May from a year earlier to $14.34 billion, while imports jumped 10.1 percent to $12.72 billion, led by consumer and capital goods, it said in a statement.

The country's trade surplus fell to $1.62 billion in May from $1.75 billion in the same month a year ago on higher import growth, the ministry said. The surplus was more than double the 724 million in April, when year-on-year exports rebounded for the first time in 14 months.

"Signs of export recovery are visible now," the ministry said in a statement. "But falling chip prices and slow recovery of light industries are weighing on exports." *Reuters*

More LatAm headaches for IMF

WASHINGTON—From Brazil's elections to the spread of Argentina's woes into Uruguay, economic hot spots are appearing all over Latin America and are set to give the International Monetary Fund a few headaches in coming months.

Analysts say while many of the potential difficulties are home-grown political ones unrelated to the financial collapse in Argentina, the IMF will need to do all it can to try to prevent any spillover from one problem to another.

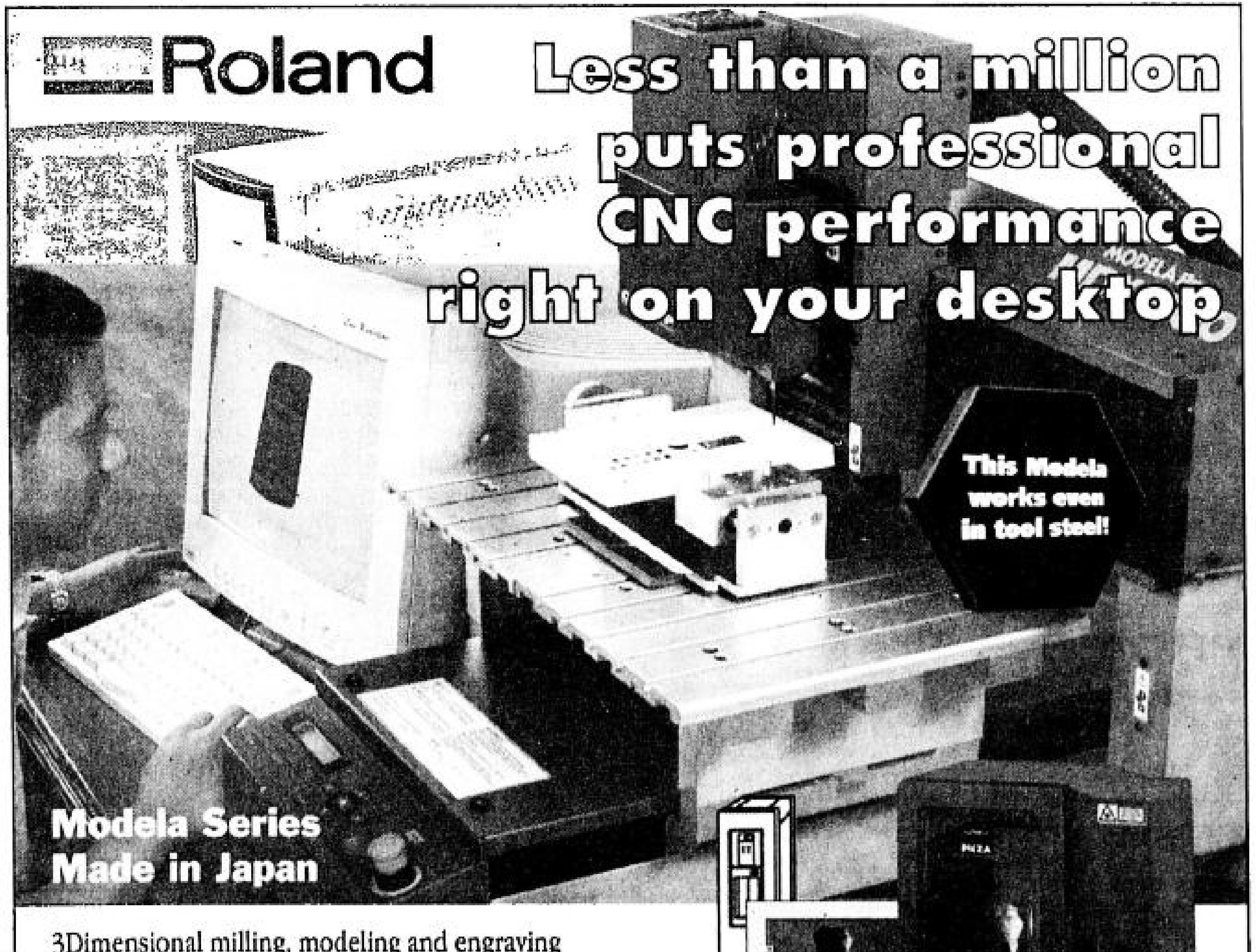
"The region became hot all of a sudden," said one IMF source. "It's not like it was before."

From Ecuador to Peru, troubles are bubbling away and the IMF already has programs or is talking about getting involved in many of those countries.

"The fund should be worried," said Ted Truman, senior fellow at the Institute for International Economics, a Washington think tank.

"Each of these countries have their own problems but there are enough of those problems and a sufficient number of links that I think the fund needs to focus on the systemic implications of the individual country cases."

Colombia has just chosen a new president, Alvaro Uribe, who swept to power on a promise to raise military spending by $1 billion to crack down on 38 years of violence. He said he wants to renew its IMF loan program after the current $2.7-billion loan expires in December and has asked the international community for understanding on military spending. *Reuters*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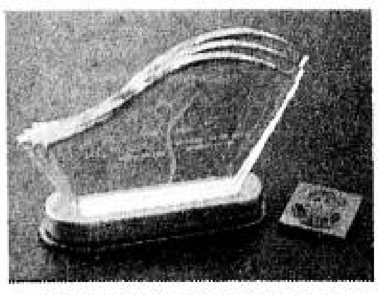

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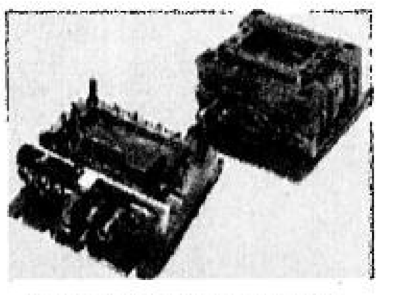

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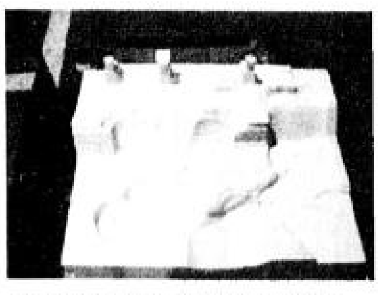
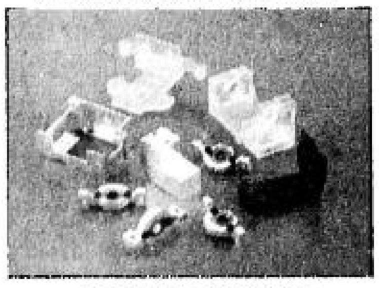


Roughed out model for a die



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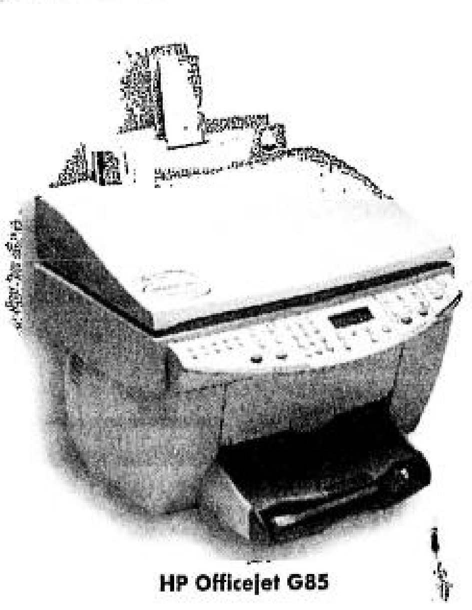

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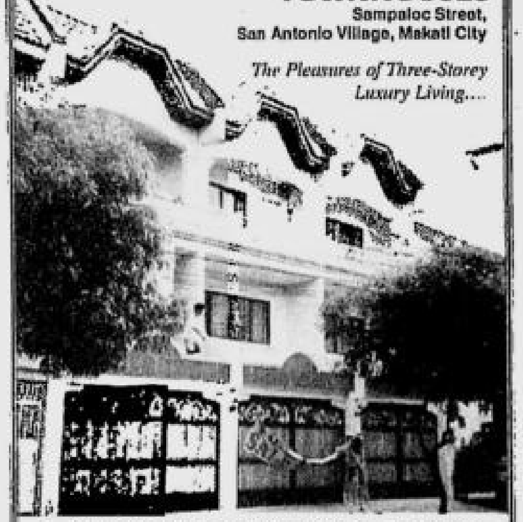

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Branch 19

IN RE: PETITION FOR CHANGE
OF NAME/CORRECTION OF
ENTRY IN THE CERTIFICATE
OF BIRTH OF ARTURO SY CHIU, JR.

ARTURO SY CHIU, JR. Sp. Proc. No. 02-103502
Petitioner,

- versus -

THE CIVIL REGISTRAR OF MANILA,
Respondent.
x------------------------------x

ORDER

A verified petition having been filed by the petitioner, through counsel, praying that after due notice, publication and hearing, judgment be rendered ordering the changing/correcting of petitioner from ARTURO SY CHIU, JR to ARTURO SY CHIU CONTRERAS, JR. alias ARTURO CHIU CONTRERAS, JR. and the name of his father, from ARTURO CHIU to ARTURO CHIU CONTRERAS, in the petitioner's Certificate of Live Birth and/or in the Civil Registry of the City of Manila.

Finding the petition sufficient in form and substance, it is hereby ordered that the same be set for hearing on July 11, 2002 at 2:00 PM before this Branch located at Rm. 420, City Hall Building, Manila.

Let a copy of this Order be published at the expense of the petitioner, once a week, for three consecutive weeks, in a newspaper of general circulation to be selected by raffle pursuant to PD 1079.

The Local Civil Registrar of Manila, through the Office of the Solicitor General, and any person having or claiming any interest in the petition, under the entry the correction of which is sought may within fifteen days from notice of the petition or from the last date of publication of such notice, file an opposition thereto.

Furnish the Office of the Solicitor General, Office of the City Prosecutor and the Local Civil Registrar of Manila with copies of the Petition and of this Order.

SO ORDERED.

Manila, Philippines; May 23, 2002.

(Sgd.) ZENAIDA R. DAGUNA
Judge

(PDI – June 3, 10 & 17, 2002)

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Felixberto A. Santos has been judicially settled among his heirs per Doc. 565, Page 113, Book 1, Series of 2002 of Notary Public Frederick F. Vallestero of Rizal (PDI-June 3, 10 & 17, '02)

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the estate of the late LOPE L. UNAJAN was extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc #237, Page #49, Book #71, Series of 2002 Before Notary Public Atty. Juanito R. Dimaano of City of Marikina. (PDI-May 27, June 3, & 10 2002)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Sps. Orlando and Edna Malan was extrajudicially settled to Sps. Ricardo and Anita Malan per Doc. No. 7810; Page No. 63; Book No. XVI; Series of 2002 before Notary Public Felipe I. Iledan Jr. of Makati City PDI-May 20,27&June 3, 2002

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ENGR. VIRDEO "ATÔ" H. CRUZ

Age: 74

ENGR. JOSE JOZALDI "JJ" V. CRUZ

Age: 39

Joined our Creator on May 29, 2002

We, their family, relatives and friends request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of their soul.

Their remains lie in state at Floresco Funeral Homes, Concepcion, Malabon City.

Interment will be on June 4, 2002 at Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches, Quezon City after the 10:30 a.m. Mass at the San Bartolome Church, San Agustin, Malabon City.

DR. MAE CAROLYN C. GUTIERREZ - FUNG

St. Luke's Medical Center

Has peacefully joined her Creator on May 25, 2002 at the age of 43 in Vancouver, B.C., Canada

Her loving husband **RICARDO B. FUNG**; father **JUSTICE HUGO E. GUTIERREZ**; mother **ESPY**; brother **DANNY**; sister-in-law **PENNY**; niece **MEG**; stepchildren **JULIE, GRACE, CHRISTIAN** and **PAUL**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

On June 3, 2002, her ashes will be brought to St. Luke the Physician Chapel, St. Luke's Medical Center, E. Rodriguez Avenue, Quezon City.

A Memorial Service will be held on Tuesday, June 4, 2002, at 7:00 PM.

She will be laid to rest on Wednesday, June 5, 2002.

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DR. ARSENIO E. GUANZON

Peacefully joined his Creator on May 30, 2002 at the age of 78.

His wife **Milagros A. Javan**; children **Arsenio Jr.**, **May** and **Christian** and their families request for prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at 094 Gen. Luna Street, Lumban, Laguna.

Interment will be on June 3, 2002 at Lumban Cemetery after the 2:00 p.m. Funeral Mass.

RAPHAEL R. OCAMPO

June 3, 1969 - May 30, 2002
La Salle Greenhills, HS Batch 1987

Left behind are his bereaved family: parents **Rodolfo & Estelita**, beloved companion **Sarah**; brothers and sisters **Jay**, **Mon** and **AC**, **Weng**, **Ina**; children **Mica**, **Rein** and **Raffy**.

His remains lie in state at St. Alphonsus De Liguori Mortuary Chapel, Magallanes Village, Makati City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, June 4, 2002 at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City, after the 2:00 PM Mass.

Amelia de Asis Zabarte

Died in the Grace of our Lord on May 22, 2002 in Sutherland (Sydney) Australia.

Her bereaved children **Chito**, **Henry**, **Remy** and **Willy**; daughters-in-law, grandchildren, great grandchildren, brothers and sisters, nephews, nieces, and other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Chapel, Magallanes Village, Makati City on Friday, June 7, 2002.

Interment will be on Saturday, June 8, at the Manila North Cemetery after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the Chapel.

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. Matthew 10:39

IBARRA (BOBBY) A. DEL ROSARIO

who died on June 1, 2002 at the age of 65.

His remains now lie in state at St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Chapel, Magallanes Village, Makati City.
Interment will be on Wednesday, June 5, 2002.
Place and time to be announced later.

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RATING	300 HP	
MAX. WORKING PRESSURE	200 and 150 PSIG	
OPERATIONAL WITH COMPLETE ACCESSORIES		
2. AIR COMPRESSOR w/ DRYERS (1 unit) w/ AIR DRYER		**P 500,000.00**
Make	Atlas Copco	
Model / type	ZT 55	
Max. working pressure	8.6 Bars	
Year Model	1995	
3. AIR COMPRESSOR (1 unit)		**P 8,000.00**
MFG	LEROI	
MAX. WORKING PRESSURE	125 LBS	
4. ELECTRICAL TRANSFORMER W/ COMPLETE ACCESSORIES (1 unit)		**P 2,575,000.00** packaged
Make	ABB-USA	
Phase	3	
KVA	1500	
High Voltage	34500	
Low Voltage	240Y/139	
Style	FNSIS 144 TBS	
SN#	96530288	
Year Manufactured	Jul-96	
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Rated Capacity	6,000 CFM	
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MAKE	YORK	

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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to Chapter III, Section 24.a of the Safeguard Measures Act (RA 8800). The Department of Agriculture will conduct a public hearing of the trigger prices corresponding to each of the agricultural products listed below prior to its official publication. The hearing shall be on June 10, 2002, 9:00 to 12:00 AM at the ITCAF main Conference Room, Department of Agriculture, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

HS CODE (2001)	Product Description (Unit)
0701.10 00	Seed potatoes (not including sweet potatoes)
0701.90 20	Potatoes, fresh or chilled, other than seed potatoes
0703.10 00	Onions and shallots, fresh or chilled
0703.20 00	Garlic, fresh or chilled
0704.90 10	Cabbages, fresh or chilled
0704.90 90	Kohlrabe, kale and similar edible brassicas, fresh or chilled
0714.10 00	Manioc (cassava), fresh or dried, whether, or not sliced or in the form of pellets
0714.20 00	Sweet potatoes, fresh or dried
0901.11 20	Coffee, not roasted, not decaffeinated
0901.12 20	Coffee, not roasted, decaffeinated
0901.21 20	Coffee, roasted, not decaffeinated
0901.22 20	Coffee, roasted, decaffeinated
0901.90 20	Coffee husks and skins
0901.90 20	Coffee subsitutes containing coffee in any proportion
1001.90 10	Wheat used as feed
1002.00 00	Rye
1003.00 00	Barley
1004.00 00	Oats
1005.10 00	Maize (corn) seed
1005.90 10	Popcorn
1005.90 92	Maize (corn), other than seed
1007.00 00	Grain sorghum
1008.20 00	Millet
1008.90 00	Other cereals
1101.00 00	Wheat or meslin flour
1103.11 00	Durum or hard wheat semolina
1103.11 00	Other groats and meal of wheat
1103.21 00	Pellets of wheat
1103.13.00	Groats and meal of maize (corn)
1103.29 00	Pellets of maize (corn)
1104.12 00	Rolled or flaked grains of oats
1104.22 00	Other worked oats
1104.19 00	Rolled or flaked grains of maize (corn)
1104.23 00	Worked maize (corn)
1109.00 00	Wheat gluten, whether or not dried
1701.11 20	Cane sugar, raw, not containing added flavoring or coloring matter
1701.12 20	Beet sugar, raw, not containing added flavoring or coloring matter
2101.11 20	Extracts, essences and concentrates of coffee
2101.12 20	Preparations with a basis of extracts, essences or concentrates or with a basis of coffee
2302.10 00	Bran, sharps and other residues, whether or not in the form of pellets, derived from the sifting, milling or other working of maize (corn)
2302.20 00	Bran, sharps and other residues, whether or not in the form of pellets, derived from the sifting, milling or other working of rice
2303.10 00	Residues of starch manufacture and similar residues

Issued this 18 day of May 2002 in Quezon City, Philippines.

(Sgd.) LEONARDO Q. MONTEMAYOR
Secretary

(PDI--June 3, 2002)

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INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY FOR CONSULTING SERVICES FOR THE

Armed Forces & Police Savings and Loan Association, Inc.
(AFPSLAI)

AFPSLAI intends to engage the services of a Solution Provider for the design, development and implementation of a computerized Integrated Mission Critical Systems to support its core business processes: Member Services, Loans Management (to include Billing and Collection) and Accounts Management (to include Tellering) and interfaced with a General Ledger System.

Any interested Solution Provider shall submit a letter of intent together with details of the company, its products and services, capabilities and related experiences, and properly captioned as "Letter of Intent and Prequalification Documents for Consulting Services for AFPSLAI's Integrated Mission Critical Systems and General Ledger System," to the following address indicated below not later than **June 10, 2002.**

Chairman
MIS Steering Committee
Armed Forces & Police Savings and Loan Association, Inc.
EDSA corner Col Bonny Serrano Road
Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City

Any additional information may be obtained at the above address with Telephone Nos. 912-0004; Fax No. 912-0517 or visit www.afpslai.com.ph.

(PDI - June 2 & 3, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Labor and Employment
OWWA Center, 7th St., Cor.
F.B. Harrison St., Pasay City
P.O. Box 1617 Manila, Philippines
Zip Code: 1300
Telex: 27794 OWWA - PH
Tels. 891-7601 to 24
Fax: 833-0187

Overseas Workers Welfare Administration

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

The Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) invites prospective bidders to bid for the supply and delivery of Computers, Printers and Accessories. (Branded only)

ITEMS		SPECIFICATIONS
2	sets	SERVER, CISC at least 2 processor, at least Pentium III - 1GHz
1	unit	Switch Hub (16 port)
1	unit	Hub (12/16 port)
1	unit	Visual Studio 6.0 or latest version
20	units	PRINTER, 24 pin Dot Matrix
18	units	WORKSTATIONS, at least 1GHz processor
22	units	UPS, at least 4 x 220 volts, minimum of .6KVA
10	rls.	UTP Cable CAT 5
500	pcs.	RJ 45

For prequalification purposes, interested suppliers are required to submit to the Chairman, PBAC thru the Property Management and General Services Division Room 301, 3rd Floor, OWWA Center Building corner F.B. Harrison Street, Pasay City not later than **June 11, 2002** photocopies of the following documents (original to be presented for authentication purposes):

1. Articles of Incorporation issued by SEC.
2. Business Registration issued by DTI.
3. Valid Municipal License.
4. Income Tax Return (ITR) for the past 2-years.
5. Audited Financial Statements for the past 2-years.
6. Value Added Tax registration.
7. List of clients for the past 3-years.
8. Company profile.

Only those pre-qualified will be invited to attend the pre-bid conference and the bidding which will be advised later.

The two (2) envelope system shall be adopted in the bidding.

The OWWA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defects of informality in such bids, and to accept those as may be considered most advantageous to the Administration. OWWA assumes no obligation for whatever loses that may be incurred by the bidder in the preparation of the bids.

For more information please see or call the Property Management and General Services Division, 3/F Rm. 301, OWWA Center Building at phone numbers 891-7601 to 24 local 5304 and 833-0113.

(Sgd.) MARIANITO D. ROQUE
Chairman
Pre-Qualification, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - June 1, 2 & 3, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO
PROVINCE OF MAGUINDANAO
MUNICIPALITY OF PARANG

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Local Government Unit (LGU) of Parang, Maguindanao has obtained a loan for the improvement and construction of the Parang Water Supply System from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) thru the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) as the Government Financial Institution (GFI) under the Mindanao Basic Urban Services Sector Project (MBUSSP), Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG). All interested bidders with PCAB license "AAA" and classified by and registered with the IAC, as Large B for Water Supply projects are invited to apply for eligibility and if subsequently found eligible, to bid for the project:

Name of Project	Parang Water Supply System-Package 1	Parang Water Supply System-Package 2
Location	Parang, Maguindanao, ARMM	Parang, Maguindanao, ARMM
Approved Budget for the Contract	P46.67M	P43.28M
Contract Duration	360 calendar days	360 calendar days
Scope of Work	Supply and installation of pipelines and fittings, construction of related civil works including dam/intake structure, reinforced concrete ground reservoir, booster pumping station, chlorination house, access roads, etc.	Supply and installation of pipelines and fittings, service connections and construction of related civil works, break pressure chamber structure, etc.

Schedule of application for eligibility and bidding are as follows:

1.	Issuance of Bidders Eligibility Statement Forms	From June 3 to June 17, 2002 upon payment of non-refundable amount of P100.00
2.	Submission of Duly Accomplished Eligibility Forms	Last day of submission is on June 24, 2002 at PIU-LGU Office, Parang, Maguindanao and Woodfields Consultants, Inc., 153 Kamias Road, Quezon City
3.	Issuance of Plans/ Bid Documents	From July 8 to 15, 2002 upon payment of non-refundable amount of P10,000.00
4.	Site Visit	The Eligible Contractor shall conduct the site visit/inspection on July 16, 2002
5.	Pre-Bid Conference	10:00 AM on July 17, 2002 at PIU-LGU Office, Parang, Maguindanao
6.	Submission and Opening of Bids	Not later than 2:00 PM at BAC-LGU Office, Parang, Maguindanao on August 19, 2002

For issuance of Bidders Eligibility Statement Form and Plans/Bid Documents, contact: MR. JESUS M. CORPUS, Project Officer, Municipal Hall, Parang, Maguindanao.

The Municipality of Parang reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive defects or formality therein and to accept bids considered responsive and most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) ADNAN C. BIRUAR, AL HAJ
Acting Mayor/Vice Mayor
Chairman, BAC

(PDI – June 3, 10 & 17, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
MANILA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY
Ninoy Aquino International Airport, Metro Manila

INVITATION FOR CONSULTING SERVICES

The Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) invites eligible Filipino consulting firms duly registered with the Department of Trade and Industry or the Securities and Exchange Commission for the purpose of drawing a long list from which a selection shall be made for the provision of consulting services for the **Lotus Notes Consultancy** for the Manila International Airport Authority.

The selected Consultant who shall be screened and evaluated by the MIAA Prequalification, Evaluation and Award Committee (MIAA-PEAC) in accordance with procedures of the NEDA Guidelines on the Procurement of Consulting Services for Government Projects (Implementing Rules and Regulations of Executive Order No. 164), shall be responsible in providing the MIAA with the perspective and guidance for the actual use of Lotus Notes application systems and maximize the full potential of Lotus Notes. It is therefore a must that the Consultant is currently authorized by IBM Phils., Inc., and has extensive Lotus Notes development expertise and certified training capabilities.

Consultants who wish to offer their services are requested to express their desire to do so and submit an official letter of intent together with their duly accomplished and notarized prequalification statements, as provided under Appendix A of the NEDA Guidelines, not later than **June 7, 2002** at the Pavements and Grounds Division, MIAA Engineering Building, MIA Road, Pasay City during official business hours only. Prequalification Forms may also be secured from the Pavements and Grounds Division Office from **May 29 to June 4, 2002.**

(Sgd.) ELPIDIO L. MENDOZA
Chairman
MIAA-PEAC

(PDI - May 28 & June 3, 2002)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Region VII, Banilad, Cebu City

INVITATION FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA) invites all interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Integrated Cargo Handling Services (ICHS) of NFA, Cebu Provincial Office. The ICHS involves the unloading of imported rice from foreign vessels to NFA designated warehouses in Metro Cebu, to include, but not limited to, stevedoring, men on lighter, arrastre, use of tugboat, crane, strip cleaning, trimming, bagging, rebagging, Custom's overtime, checkering charges, special/standby charges, hauling, weighing, handling, etc

Schedule of Bidding Activities:

Issuance of Eligibility Requirements & Pre-qualification Statement	May 27 - June 5, 2002
Deadline for Submission of Accomplished Eligibility Requirements & Prequalification Statement	June 14, 2002
Notice of Eligibility to Bid & Issuance of Bid Documents	June 28, 2002
Pre-Bidding Conference	July 10, 2002 @ 10:00 AM
Submission & Opening of Bid Envelopes	July 24, 2002 @ 10:00 AM

Eligibility Requirements and Pre-Qualification Statement may be secured from and submitted to the NFA-RPBAC Secretariat, Second Floor, NFA, Cebu Regional Office, Banilad, Cebu City after payment of a non-refundable fee of P500.00. Only those eligible shall be issued the bidding documents after paying a non-refundable documentary fee of One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P1,500.00). For further inquiries, you may contact the Secretariat at tel. nos. 232-1939; 232-8820; Fax No. 233-6095.

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any informality or defect found therein, and accept only such offers which, in its judgment, are deemed most advantageous to the Agency.

(Sgd.) JAVIER P. LOZADA, JR.
Regional Director

(PDI -- May 26 & June 3, 2002)

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Santos Building, Gov Duterte Street
Davao City (fronting Galleria Hotel)
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Babasahin ATBP.
Lower Level, Gaisano Mall
Bajada, Davao City
Ground Floor, Victoria Plaza
Bajada, Davao City
Tel Nos. (082) 221-3927/227-4410/300-2920
General Santos
Mr. Ramon Dimalanta
GSC Newscenter, Dimalanta Building
85 Pioneer Avenue, General Santos City
Tel Nos (083) 301-8731/301-6244
Pagadian City
Mr. Eduardo Villar Clavero
Edmar News - Advertising Agency
Bonifacio Street, Pagadian City
Tel. Nos. (062) 215-1448/214-2041
Cell No. (0919) 660-0001
Zamboanga
Mr. James Hao
Marlen's Variety Store
86-88 Sevilla Street, Zamboanga City
Tel Nos (062) 991-4294/991-0973
Mr. Ruben Bautista
c/o Norle Bautista
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NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS

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Pinoy goes on trial in 1st hacking case

From page B20

The Philippines' E-commerce law specifically bars hacking or any activity involving unauthorized access to a computer system to corrupt, alter, steal or destroy electronic data.

Around 11 a.m. that Wednesday, Garcia's lawyer Roberto Lim Jr., and the state prosecutor, Charlton Jules Romero, took their turns arguing their cases to Judge Cornejo.

First on the agenda was the "motion for the production and inspection of documents with opposition" filed by the defense. In layman's terms, this means the defense wants the prosecution to produce evidence supporting their case against Garcia.

Judge Cornejo, however, stopped both lawyers from arguing further when she denied the motion, saying that both lawyers have agreed in "open court" to present the evidence as the trial progresses.

In an interview, prosecution lawyer Romero labeled Lim's motion as a "fishing expedition" aimed at forcing him to give out details of his case.

After some objections, and a motion to dismiss the case by Lim, the prosecution eventually disclosed that their material witness was missing, thus trial could not begin.

The prosecution immediately asked to reset the trial for June 19, and requested that the courts issue another subpoena to the witness, Martin Salazar, a technical manager of NewGen IT Corp., the Internet service provider of Thames used allegedly to hack into the e-mail account of one of the school officials.

"The court will reset the initial trial to June 19 because of the absence of the prosecution witness," Judge Cornejo declared.

In an interview, prosecution lawyer Romero explained to reporters that the prosecution might have failed to properly convey its request to the court to subpoena Salazar.

"I don't know why Salazar didn't show up," he said, noting that the witness will be presenting evidence crucial to its case against Garcia.

Garcia is accused of allegedly accessing an e-mail account remotely on several occasions without the consent of the Thames officials.

In a resolution signed by Investigating Prosecutor Anunciacion Hipol on Sept. 12, 2001, Garcia was found using an e-mail account whose password was supposedly known only to Thames chief executive Vivienne Tan and the school's former Information Technology support head, Caesar Mañalac on Dec. 17, 24, 25 and 31, 2000 and on Jan. 1, 2001.

Garcia allegedly accessed the e-mail account from her home telephone number in Pasig City.

"(This was done) without the knowledge, authority, and consent of the complainant (Thames) or any of its officers," Hipol's penned resolution read, noting that Garcia accessed the e-mail account from her residence in Pasig through NewGen's network.

Thames is engaged in the business of operating business and management training for graduate and undergraduate students.

"In connection with its business, (Thames) bought several computers, installed software, created its own computer server and network, and secured an Internet account with NewGen IT," documents said.

The Internet account with NewGen was used for official correspondence or e-mail of Thames. Thus the password to access this system is only known to its chief executive officer Vivienne Tan (who happens to be the daughter of business mogul Lucio Tan) and former IT support head Ceasar Mañalac.

But in a counter-affidavit on July 14, 2001, Garcia said she was only employed by the school on Jan. 29, 2001, and later resigned on March 23, 2001.

Hipol's resolution, however, indicated that Garcia was employed on Nov. 29, 2000.

(To be continued next week)

Who is Leilani Garcia?

By Erwin Oliva
INQ7.net

UNLIKE the stereotypical hacker (young male, bespectacled and knowledgeable in computer systems), Leilani Garcia, 27, is not your typical, run-of-the-mill alleged computer intruder.

Garcia, former systems supervisor of the Thames International Business School, is being accused of hacking into the school's system, thereby violating Section 33-a of the Electronic Commerce Act or Republic Act 8792.

She is the first Filipino to go on trial in Philippine courts for hacking.

According to an application she filed with Thames on Oct. 6, 2000, Garcia applied for the accounting supervisor position in the school. A certified public accountant, she worked as the auditor and applications consultant of Systems Technology Research Corp., where she was in charge of the company's internal financial consulting services before joining Thames.

She was born on Jan. 8, 1975 in Sampaloc, Manila.

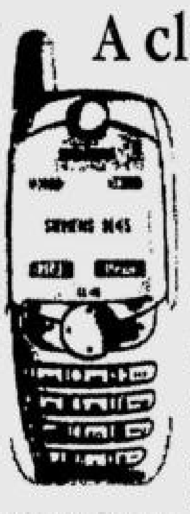
Her academic background shows that she passed the University of the Philippines entrance examination but she opted to go to De La Salle University to take up BS Accountancy. At La Salle, she was a dean's lister, was part of the College of Business and Economics Honors program of La Salle, an outstanding member of the audit committee, a member of the Junior Philippine Institute of Accountants, and was active in different organizations including a political party called Alyansang Tapat sa La Salista.

She got a 99+ rating in the National College Entrance Examination.

In her application to Thames, she wrote that one of the traits that best described her was that she was a "fast learner; can easily grasp new concepts, very responsible and hardworking; and makes sure that all tasks assigned under (her) are performed properly and finished on time."

She tutored high school students in Algebra, Geometry, Trigonometry, and Physics. She also plays the piano and loves painting. She speaks French, and is a member of the Alliance Française de Manille.

A closer look at the Siemens SL45



By Jerry Liao

THIS week we take a look at the Siemens SL45.

Strengths

(1) Built-in MP3 player (up to 45 minutes of music)

(2) Dictaphone and digital voice recorder

(3) Personal digital assistant (PDA) functionalities

(4) Strong signal and reception, I can send and receive text messages even inside an elevator.

Weaknesses

(1) No HSCSD and no Bluetooth

(2) Slow data transfer rate. Need to upgrade MMC reader/writer to speed it up.

(3) Old firmware causes the phone to hang, slow response to functions.

(4) For a pricey phone, its only dual-band supporting GSM 900 and GSM 1800.

The Bottom line

A power-packed phone, a PDA and MP3 player in one. An expensive phone but buying a mobile phone, a PDA and a portable MP3 player seperately is more expensive. If you have the budget, the SL45 is a good phone but it would be better if you get the updated Java-enabled SL45i.

THE BOTTOM LINE

For more reviews on the latest gadgets and gizmos, visit http://www.infochat.com.ph. Want us to review a product? Send us an e-mail to infochat@mozcom.com with the subject heading: "The Bottom Line."

Prepare thyself for the evil

From page B20

you enter a control room where you're forced to solve a puzzle under time pressure, or else Neptune will come crashing into the glass panel and swallow you like aspirin.

The shark tank also has one of the coolest video game deaths I've seen. Upon entering this area, a cut scene will show Richard, one of the characters, panting like hell, up to his waist in water. Chris moves forward to help him, but Richard stops him from doing so. "Chris, stop!" are the last words of Richard as Neptune the big-ass shark throws his bulk out of the water, grabs Richard in his jaws and shakes him violently left and right like a dog would shake a rag doll. My hats off to you, Richard. You may be dead but that was one hell of a visual feast you gave us.

I was a bit disappointed with two of the bosses in this game. The big-ass snake in the library turned out to be a wimp, and the big-ass spider turned out to be wuss. Pump in a few shotgun shells into them and they're history. On the other hand, the Hunters are freakingly scary. Just when you think you're safely back inside the mansion and just when you're turning that doorknob, a cut scene with awesome sound effects follows, taking it from the wild and dizzying point of view of the Hunter following the route you took back to the mansion ala the "Evil Dead" camera shots of Sam Raimi. The Hunters are hard to kill because they're fast, but once you get a bead on them they'll go down after three shotgun blasts or, in one rare occasion that the Hunter didn't get me by surprise, seven bullets from your handgun.

The zombies here aren't stupid, either. They break through doors and windows and surprise the hell out of you. There was one window down a dark hallway where I thought a zombie outside was casting its shadow unto the hallway. I faced the window for some possible action, waited for a while but nothing happened. I turned back and concluded that the shadow was being cast instead by a tree outside. One step forward and then the windows came crashing into me while I was jumped by not one but two zombies. Scary.

I could go on and on and tell you how I gawked at the detailed rooms, tricky puzzles and cool effects and realistic cut scenes found in this game, but I'll tell you this instead: You have to try it to believe.

I logged 21 hours, 43 minutes and 44 seconds playing Chris, which is pathetic compared to the record of 59 minutes and 58 seconds. But all in all, I counted no less than 27 hours including the repeats (everytime I die) and the time I spent just looking around marveling at the graphics. I had to consult a walkthrough three times since some of the puzzles are just too dang difficult (like the shark tank puzzle).

In the end, it's how much fun you have playing the game. Don't try to breeze through Resident Evil to make good time. Take your time. Watch the shadows cast when lightning flashes. Gawk at the reflections. Listen to the zombies' moans, the Crimson Heads' plodding feet and Lisa Trevor's eerie voice. Smell the zombies and the barf breath of the zombie dobermen. Enjoy survival horror at its best and see what I mean when I say that Resident Evil on the GameCube has got to be the most freakingly realistic game on any platform.

This game will scare your ass white. If it doesn't, then you've probably got a white ass already.

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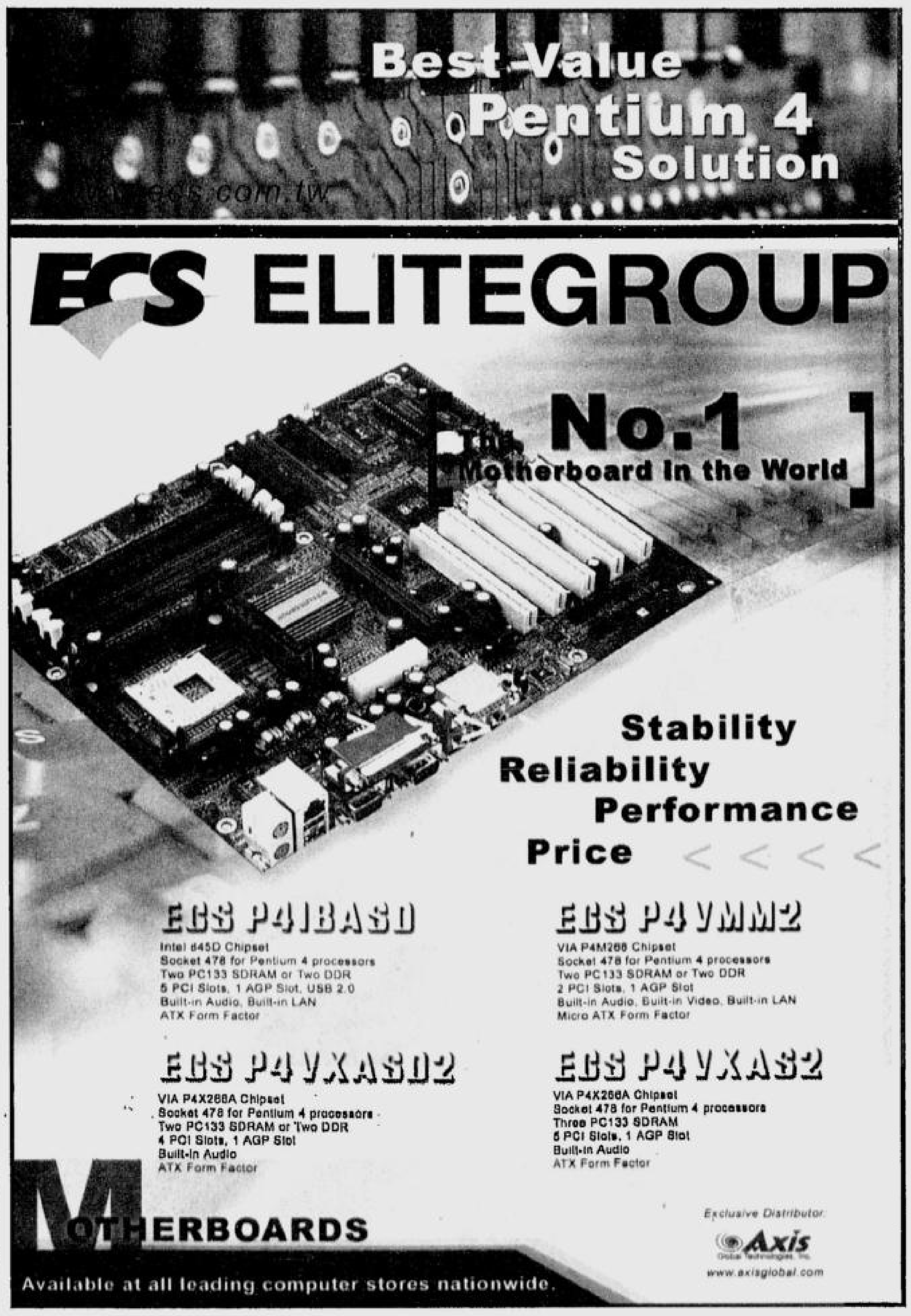
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INFOTECH

Editor **Leo Magno**

Pinoy goes on trial in 1st hacking case

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva
INQ7.net

(First of a series)

THE COURTROOM Branch 69 of the Pasig Metropolitan Trial Court was cramped with people on a Wednesday morning. The fortyish Judge Ma. Cristina Cornejo was sitting in the middle of the room, listening to some lawyers arguing on a case of estafa. According to the court's schedule, Case No. 58422 or the People of the Philippines versus Leilani Garcia y Clemente of Prague Street, Greenpark Village, Manggahan, Pasig City, was the fifth item to be taken up that morning.

The svelte Garcia, former employee of the Thames International Business School, stands accused of violating Section 33-a of the Electronic Commerce Act of the Philippines or Republic Act 8792. But unknown to most people sitting in the courtroom, save for the journalists waiting in the sidelines, Garcia is the first alleged Filipino hacker to go on trial in Philippine courts.

Her crime, according to the complaint slapped on her, involves unauthorized use or access to a computer system of the Thames International Business School allegedly without the knowledge of school officials. The 27-year-old Garcia is the former systems supervisor of Thames.

For this, Garcia, if proven guilty, will have to pay P100,000 and up, commensurate to the damage incurred by the complainant, plus an imprisonment of six months up to three years.

PINOY/ B19

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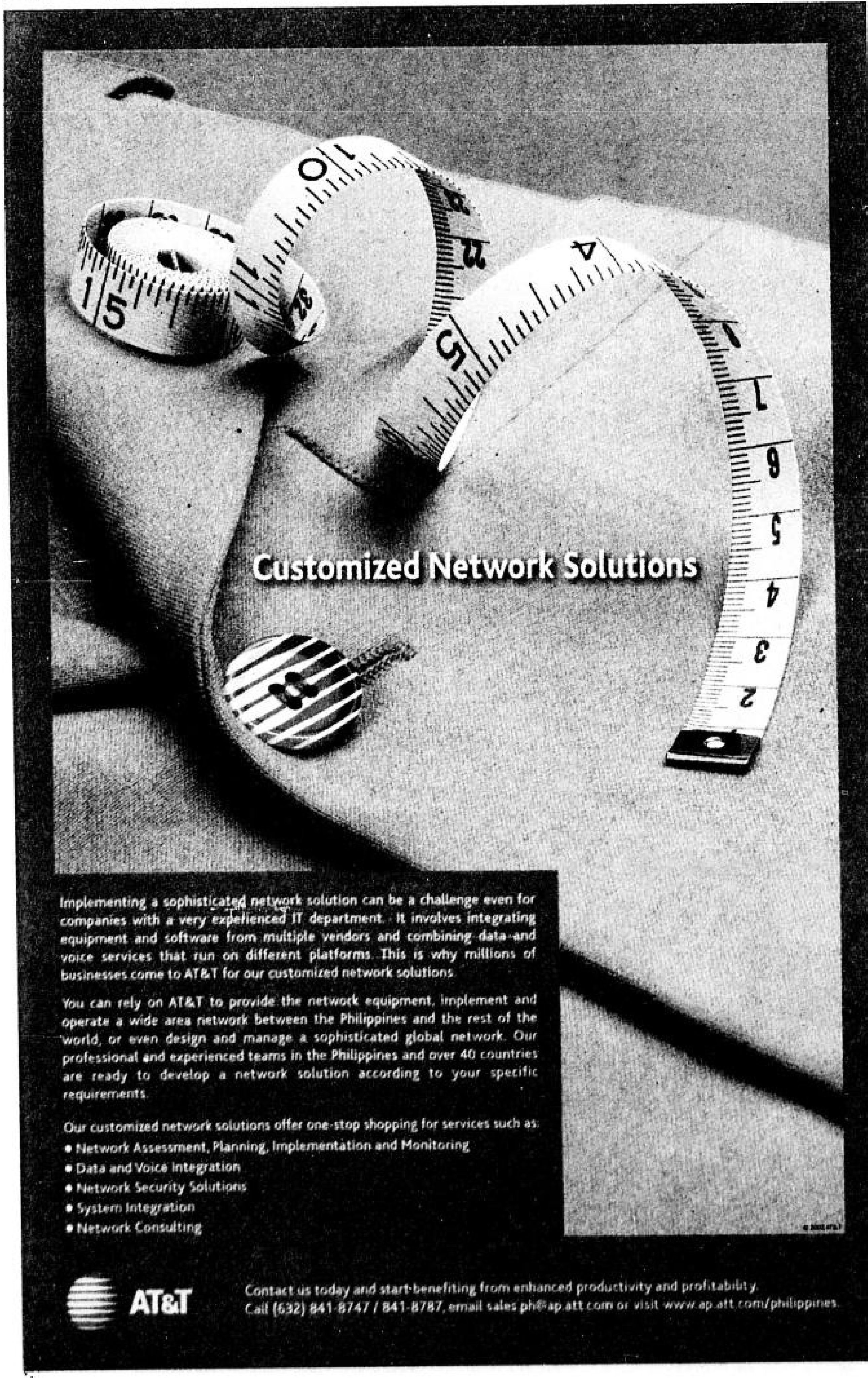
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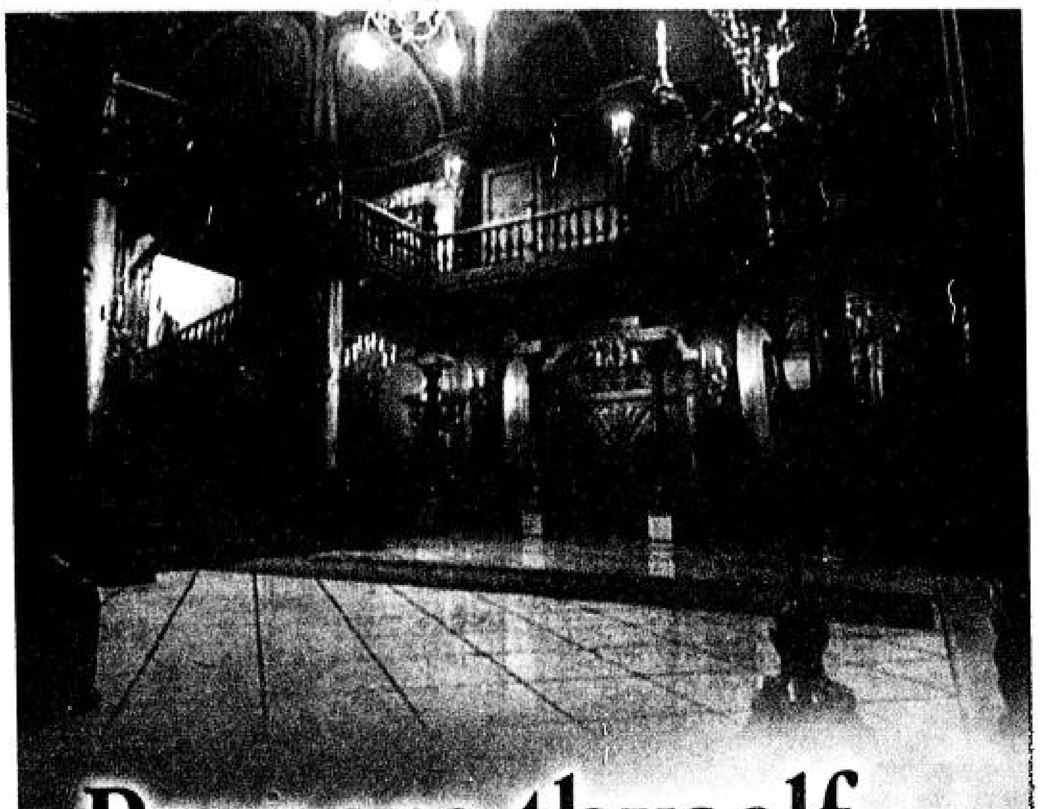


Prepare thyself, for the evil

By Leo Magno

LAST month we reviewed Biohazard on the GameCube side-by-side with Silent Hill 2 on the Xbox for our feature on survival horror games. However, the copy I had back then, the first GameCube game I've tried, was the Japanese version of Resident Evil called Biohazard, complete with Japanese text. That was because Resident Evil was not due for a North American release till April 30.

A week later on May 12, however, I was in San Jose, California and was able to buy a copy of the game at Electronics Boutique for $50 or P2,500 (a lot cheaper than the tag price of between P3,000 and P3,400 here in Manila). Most of the stores have sold out their copies of Resident Evil, and the copy I got was actually the last for that particular branch.

I got as far as the second-floor fireplace room in Biohazard despite the Japanese text, and wrote the review soon after that because I replaced the game with Pikmin. However, I should have known better than to write a review of a game without beating it first. The review I did for Biohazard does not give justice to Resident Evil, thus I'm reviewing it again in full this week. After beating the game, I realized that this one is too awesome to just let it pass by.

We review this game on the GameCube

I know I'd sound exaggerated and juvenile if I said that Resident Evil on the GameCube has got to be the most realistic and terrifying game ever made. But what the hell, I'll say it anyway, and you can quote me on it: "Resident Evil on the GameCube has got to be the most realistic and terrifying game ever made."

When a game gets to a point where you're afraid to make that next turn or venture forth into that cabin or that dark courtyard for fear of what God-awful creatures might jump on you, you know that the makers of the game have done something right. This is where kudos go to Capcom of Japan for this remake of the original Resident Evil on the PlayStation. But this is not just a rehash of the original. It has new surprises, new items, new maps, new secrets, new enemies and new weapons.

However, the shining glory of this game compared not only to the original but also to any other game on any other platform is the high level of detail it offers graphics-wise. Again, I might sound juvenile and exaggerated if I told you that Resident Evil on the GameCube has to be the most realistic and fluid-looking game on any console, but what the hell, you can quote me on that again. I remember overhearing a couple of guys in Greenhills talking about Final Fantasy X on the PS2 and Dead or Alive 3 on the Xbox, saying that playing those two games is like watching a movie because the graphics were so realistic. I had to laugh privately because I've played both games on both platforms and not one of them even comes close to Resident Evil on the Cube.

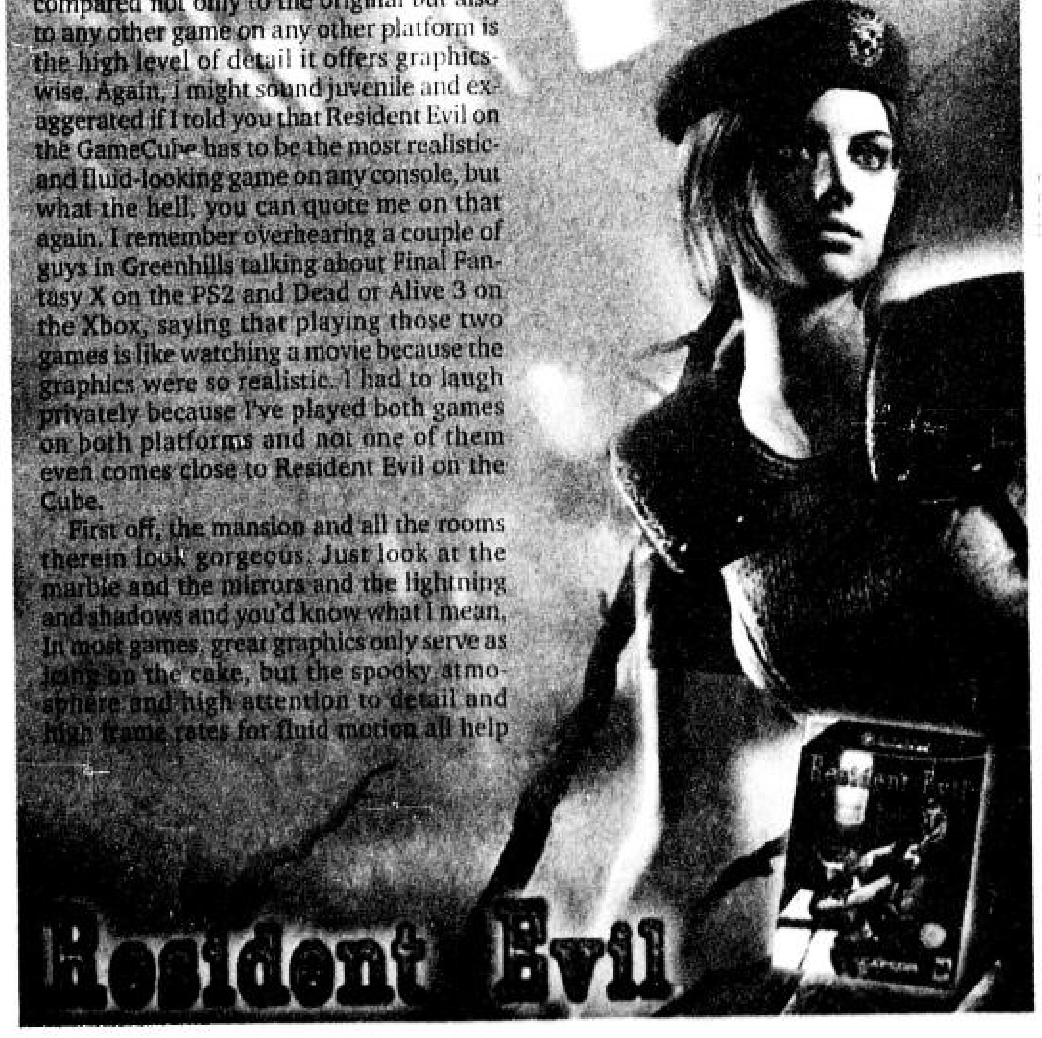
First off, the mansion and all the rooms therein look gorgeous. Just look at the marble and the mirrors and the lightning and shadows and you'd know what I mean. In most games, great graphics only serve as icing on the cake, but the spooky atmosphere and high attention to detail and high frame rates for fluid motion all help make Resident Evil a cut above the rest. This game sets the standard in realistic graphics no other game on any platform even comes close to. I can't wait to see Capcom's Resident Evil Zero, remakes of RE2 and RE3 which will all be released exclusively on the GameCube fourth quarter this year.

Apparently the Americans agree. When I was in San Jose and Kentucky three weeks ago I talked to a lot of game shop owners, and I gathered that Resident Evil has become a bonafide system seller, meaning people are actually buying GameCubes for this game alone.

Yet this game is not just for newbies to Resident Evil. Even fans of the old version will find a lot of surprises here that weren't in the original. Like Crimson Heads, for example. If you don't blow up the heads or burn the slow-moving, lumbering zombies, they'll come back to "life" and become fast-moving red zombies with claws. These Crimson Heads are really frightening once you encounter them. This is where another new addition comes in handy: the defense items. Throughout the game you get to pick up grenades (for the character of Chris Redfield) or stun guns (for the Jill Valentine character) or daggers that will automatically be used by your character if a zombie latches on to you. I found this useful in saving ammo. I let a Crimson Head grab me on purpose, then after a brief tussle Chris automatically stuffs a grenade into its mouth. I move back a bit and watch the Crimson Head move around helplessly until the grenade explodes in its mouth and blows its head off. One less Crimson Head that won't be resurrected. No ammos wasted. This is where I smile and heave a sigh of relief. You can also pour kerosene on a fallen zombie and use your lighter to send it to hell, ensuring that that particular zombie won't come back from the undead.

One of the most awesome pieces of action in the game can be found in the shark tank, where the water curves and distorts beautifully as hulking sharks wade through. Surviving this part and shooting it out with Neptune, the big ass shark, is really pulse-pounding. After you dodge these,

PREPARE/ B19



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TARGETTING GLOBAL HEIGHTS

Ayala goes for leaner, more flexible enterprise

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

THE AYALA group of companies is perceived to be the very picture of what many Filipino companies want to become—big, stable, conservative, professionally run and the leader in almost all of the industries where it is present.

The highly diversified conglomerate is involved in as many as nine major businesses which include real estate and hotels, financial services, insurance, telecommunications, food, electronics and information technology, automotive, infrastructure and international operations.

It is this very size, however, that the Ayala group now feels, is hampering its ability to meet changes in the increasingly competitive global corporate landscape. To stay ahead of the game, companies are now required to decide faster and to be more nimble in addressing rapid changes.

Ayala, thus, took the bold step to reorganize the Ayala group into a leaner and more sharply focused enterprise.

An internal unit called AC Capital was set up to manage non-strategic assets that have been on Ayala's books for some time.

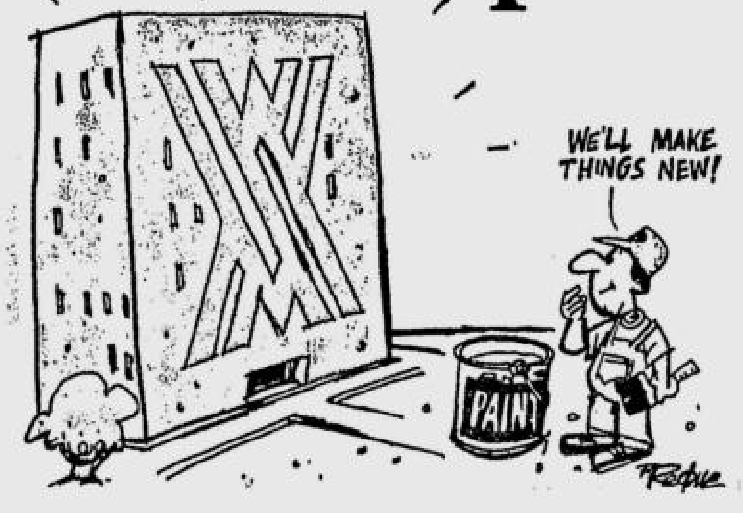
"AC Capital is probably the largest single change we will be making to Ayala Corp.," said Ayala president and CEO Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala in an earlier media briefing.

"AC Capital will be the vehicle which will drive Ayala's new business building efforts. AC Capital will therefore have two additional functions. One will be a capability to constantly search and assess new business opportunities, particularly opportunities that leverage the unique portfolio of capabilities," Zobel said.

Driving this major reorganization that reduced its staffing complement considerably was the realization that business decisions can no longer be made based on current assumptions.

"We see new and increasing forms of competition in many major industries with the growth

AYALA/ C2



Hybrid cars look to drive from niche to mainstream

TOKYO—In a car park in Tokyo's trendy waterfront area this month, some 40 cars lined up face to face.

They weren't there to race and the models might not be the coolest designs ever to hit the road, but their owners are convinced they are driving the cars of the future.

On one side were 20 Prius sedans, on the other Estima hybrid minivans—both models that combine a gasoline engine and a battery-powered electric motor.

Touted by Japanese makers as "the next big thing" after the traditional internal combustion engine, hybrid gas-electric vehicles offer from 1.5 times to twice the fuel efficiency of gasoline cars of the same size, cutting carbon dioxide emissions.

"My company is environmentally conscious and there was the attraction of trying something new, and my colleagues were egging me on, so I bought one," said Shigetsugu Betchaku, a member of Priusmania, a web-based club that organized the meeting for gas-electric vehicle owners.

Unlike pure electric cars, hybrids do not need to be plugged in to be recharged, but they are more expensive than gasoline cars, with the Estima hybrid costing some 500,000 yen ($4,000) more than an Estima with a gasoline engine.

Most members of Priusmania admit they are car enthusiasts obsessed with the newest technology, but the popularity of hybrids is spreading, with vehicles now bought by the eco-minded willing to a pay a premium to be green.

"I've always been interested in the environment so I decided my next vehicle would be a Prius," said new owner Hiroshi Takeda.

Toyota aims high

Since it pioneered the way with the Prius in 1997, Toyota Motor Corp.'s worldwide hybrid sales have topped 100,000. That includes the Estima as well as Crown luxury sedans that are "mild hybrids" using a cheaper but less efficient system.

Honda Motor Co. is the only other automaker so far to mass-market hybrid vehicles—the two-seater Insight and a recently launched hybrid version of its popular Civic compact—and has sold some 13,000 since late 1999.

But it is still very much a niche market and the question of just how fast and how far it will develop is crucial for an industry that must decide how to divide up research funds between hybrids and competing technologies such as fuel cell vehicles.

Fuel cells use an electrochemical process to create electricity by mixing hydrogen with oxygen, emitting only water and heat.

Toyota is the most ambitious, aiming to build 300,000 hybrids annually in 2005, although it has said the target may include sales to other automakers.

"We are going to do everything we can to spread this technology," said Hiroyuki Watanabe, senior managing director in charge of environmental product design.

"What we are trying to do is not just reduce costs by a bit but cut costs by half while at the same

HYBRID/ C5

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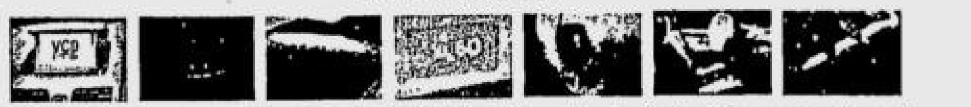
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Connected communities and the New Asian corporation

MAPPING THE FUTURE

Carol E. Carreon

I'VE SPENT the last year and a half of my career on the leading edge of technology. B2B e-commerce is a frontier. And it can be just as intimidating—and dangerous in a business sense—as other frontiers: space, the ocean, or the jungles of Sumatra.

But like those other frontiers, B2B e-commerce offers great promise in two significant ways. First, we are learning as we go. We try things and see how they work. Then we try to make them work better, or try something completely different. The point is, this learning is discovering. We do things no one has ever done before.

Second, we then look for ways to apply the knowledge we acquire to practical business processes. In the B2B space, that means lowering costs in a number of ways.

For instance, cost of goods and cost of business processes. Buyers on e-marketplaces do benefit from overall lower cost of goods. BayanTrade buyers average around 12 percent savings. But often the more significant savings is in streamlined business processes as a result of automating purchasing.

Not all of our learning, however, is strictly applied technology. I am continually amazed—and delighted—by the way technology enables the development of globally connected communities, and the impact this has on our own organizational cultures, practices, mindsets, and opportunities.

This is not to imply the inevitability of the "McDonalidization" of global enterprise. But there is no stopping the "communitization" of global enterprise.

By "communitization" I mean connected communities, or a network of communities in which each community is distinguished by its own particular attributes and culture.

In my view, globally connected communities offer enormous opportunity for Philippine enterprise. Consider, for instance, visibility. At present, the Philippine business community is eclipsed by both events and geography.

When business people think of Asia, they think of China. But when suppliers are in connected communities, or e-marketplaces, it doesn't matter where they are. It only matters whether they produce quality goods at the right price in the quantities required, and can deliver them on time.

We know this by experience. Although we are not yet connected to other e-marketplaces internationally (we will be soon) our sellers already tell me that BayanTrade has made them visible to a broad market that would have been near impossible to break into using traditional business development strategies.

Just as importantly, they acquire this visibility at very little cost, especially compared to the upfront costs normally associated with growing a business and developing client relationships.

The benefits of visibility locally will be exponentially magnified when BayanTrade begins to connect its community of buyers and sellers to other communities first regionally, and then globally. Traditional barriers to business development won't disappear, but they will be substantially lowered, and therefore much easier to hurdle even for small, entrepreneurial organizations.

BayanTrade's interest in connected communities accounts primarily for our decision to co-present with the Management Association of the Philippines an international CEO conference June 19 titled "Defining the New Asian Corporation: Its Leadership, Character, and Passion." I believe that the work we are doing at BayanTrade—and that other e-marketplaces are doing at the same time—to connect business communities globally is a principal driver of the evolution of the New Asian Corporation.

I will be moderating a panel—"Networks: The New Asian Enterprise Community"—that is intended to examine where this evolution is taking us. As business communities globally become globally connected communities, the ecosystem in which organizations reside and operate will dramatically expand.

What qualities and structures will they have? And what will be the roles that the members of the community will play?

A very prestigious group of panelists will provide insights based on their own experiences, and visions. They include Sandy Kemper, founder and CEO of eScout, which operates around 100 e-marketplaces in the United States with a community of buyers and sellers exceeding 100,000.

He's also chairman of the Global Trading Web, an association of e-marketplaces that is in the process of connecting to each other (BayanTrade is a council member). You can't get better insight into connected communities than Sandy's.

Another Asian technology pioneer, techpacific.com founder Ilyas Khan, will provide his perspective on connected communities in Asia, and how technology is enabling Asian corporations of all sizes to compete globally.

Roberto Romulo is chairman of the e-Asean Task Force, and is responsible for helping Asian governments develop public policy that will foster rapid dispersion of technology in regional enterprises.

Finally, Toby Marion, who is president of Thomas Group Asia, will remind us of what technology can't do. And that's create better processes. Technology, remember, enables connected communities. Whether they live up to their promise, however, depends on how smart we are at building and managing them.

E-marketplaces, of course, can't enable connected communities alone. Other intra- and inter-enterprise technologies are necessary. Those technologies include such things as enterprise systems and supply chain management, customer relationship management, and even supplier relationship management solutions.

Other contributors to community development include evolving core competencies, global alliances, and even mergers and acquisitions as sectors consolidate to leverage both scale and competence. Our panel will be concerned with all these issues.

The bottom line for me though is opportunity. Connected communities are opportunity, and that opportunity is extremely important for Philippine enterprise that is struggling first to be seen, and then recognized for its world-class quality.

Our conference on June 19—which will take place at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel—will provide important insights into how you can take advantage of the promise of a globally connected Philippine enterprise community.

The conference is for senior executives, and space is limited. If you haven't registered already and you want to see how things are out here on the frontier, you better hurry. You can do that by e-mailing abcabato@teamasia.com.

(This article reflects the personal views of the author who is a member of the Management Association of the Philippines, and president and chief executive officer of BayanTrade DotCom Inc. The MAP secretariat and the author may be reached at mapsec@globenet.com.ph.)

Ayala goes for leaner . . .

From page C1

of strong global and regional competitors. With trade barriers quickly falling, many markets integrating and entry of China into the World Trade Organization, very different patterns of local and regional competition are emerging," added Ayala investor relations head Emily de Lara.

De Lara added that the capital markets are becoming more integrated, with money moving faster. Capital finds the most attractive markets and funds the most attractive projects.

"We have entered a new era where market volatility is a way of life as investors are increasingly quick to punish poor performance or governance," De Lara said.

New face of Ayala

Ayala, thus, adopted a change in mindset and new strategies to remain competitive in the market. These are to build the core business in property, banking and telecommunications; reduce the debt load, be more active in the management of its portfolio of businesses and to look for opportunities where the Ayala group can be a leader.

The changes in the Ayala holding company structure are already being felt at the level of its subsidiaries.

Ayala Land Inc., for instance, has expanded its market to include not only the high-end market but also the middle market and the middle-income urban residential segment.

With increasing focus on capital returns, ALI will also rationalize its land bank and its non-core assets in keeping with the Ayala group's strategy to be lean and mean.

On the other hand, the Bank of the Philippine Islands and Globe Telecom would stay on track toward growth backed by financial prudence and cost reductions.

On the issue of debt, the Ayala holding company has reduced its debt load by $200 million last year and another $90 million was paid out.

"Ayala intends to continue this positive trend while at the same time maintain sufficient access to liquidity in the form of committed credit facilities," De Lara said.

Ayala group is also more prepared now to evaluate and possibly change its stake in each of its existing businesses—bring in new partners, build regional and even global alliances or merge businesses with others.

If the Ayala group of old was inclined to keep within its confines, it is now ready to reach out and tap new partners that it did not actively deal with before.

"The company will be more open minded and more focused on value creation. At the end of the day, the plan is not to keep businesses where the company is no longer the natural owner, or where the performance criteria are not met. The sale of Pure Foods last year is a good example of this new philosophy," De Lara said.

Out with the old

Ayala Corp. informed the staff of the new vision for the parent company since last year and as many as 80 of the staff took advantage of the special retirement offer. Most of them stayed on until the end of May to help in the transition and by Monday, Ayala Corp.'s headcount would have gone down by 40 percent from 200 to 120.

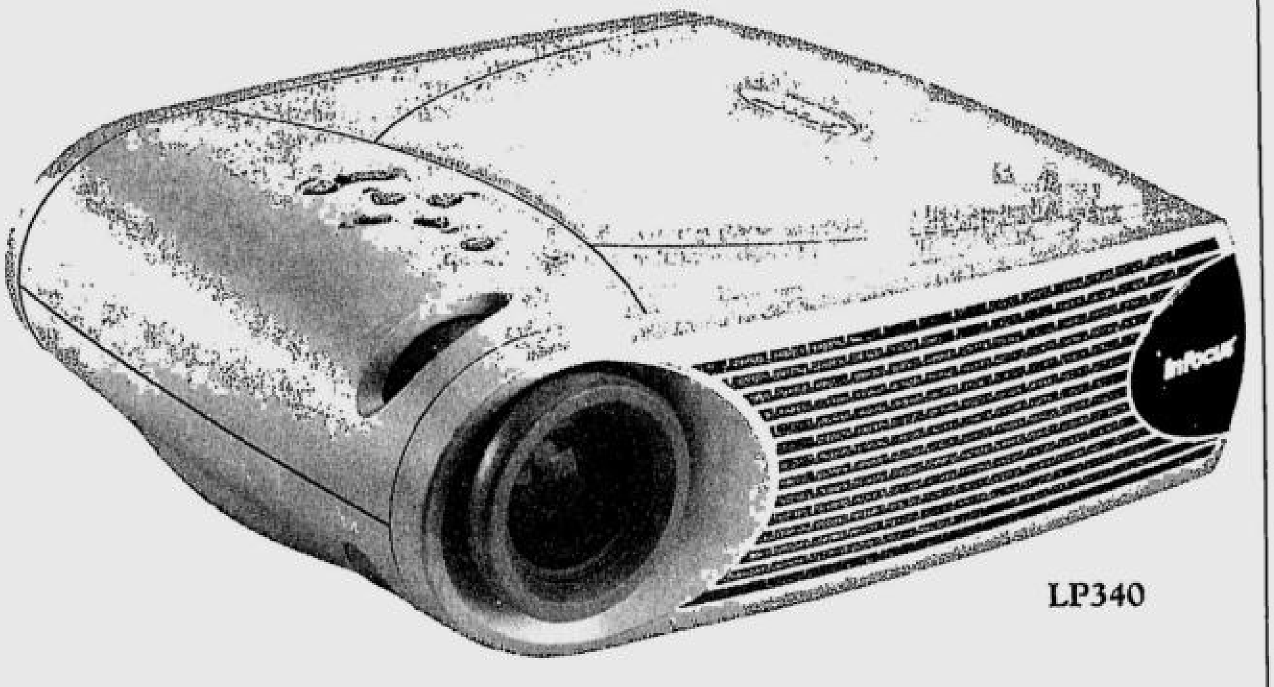
The remaining 120 would remain to see the company through the next phase of the company.

"Ayala will focus on building new businesses much more aggressively. But at the core of this philosophy is the idea that the company will only get involved in opportunities where it can clearly identify a unique value that it can bring. At the corporate level, this is how we create new value and justify maintaining the holding company structure," De Lara said.

Adiós

Sayonara

Good-bye



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Faraway US states knock on Wall Street's door

NEW YORK—Goldman Sachs Group Inc. is among the world's top investment banks, with far-flung offices, a commanding presence in financial markets, savvy executives and a sterling roster of blue-chip clients.

Now some of its innermost thoughts—as detailed in internal e-mails, memos, and even performance reviews—will be scrutinized by a man who most likely never registered in the thinking of Goldman's top brass.

Meet Anthony Taggart, the director of securities for Utah, the 34th largest US state and home to no major brokerage firm.

Taggart has been thrust in the middle of one of the biggest securities cases ever, investigating Goldman on behalf of the multistate task force formed to support New York Attorney General Eliot Spitzer's expanded inquiry into the state of Wall Street analysis.

Taggart, who has taken on penny stock manipulators in Utah, now will be called on to confront the wily ways of Wall Street—to determine whether Street analysts misled investors with overly bullish stock picks to win banking business from corporate clients.

Taggart and his colleagues, numbering about 40 US states, are driving potential securities industry reform, upending the applecart of Wall Street watchdogs—the Securities and Exchange Commission and market self-regulatory organizations.

"Basically in the last 60 years there hasn't been a big role for state securities regulators, but this is kind of a window of opportunity for them, a lease on regulatory relevance," said Jonathan Macey, a professor of law at Cornell Law School.

An international investor unfamiliar with the American legal system might find Utah's role disconcerting. It would be as if a lawyer from Ireland suddenly launched a probe into how Deutsche Bank goes about its business in Frankfurt and across Europe.

Yet neither Taggart nor several other regulators from the task force evince misgivings about what they're up to.

The e-mails uncovered by Spitzer in which Merrill Lynch & Co. Internet analysts mocked stocks they had given top ratings indicate potential evidence of banks luring Main Street investors into risky investments.

Power to regulate Goldman Sachs resides in a state securities framework that is similar to federal laws, and the states are careful to express their willingness to cooperate with the SEC.

"This isn't a case that I would take on by myself," said Utah's Taggart. "But I think that where you have the collective experience and . . . resources of the states, and pool that with what the SEC is doing, it can be an effective combination."

Taggart emphasizes he hasn't prejudged Goldman. Rather, the basis for the states' investigation is the troubling e-mails uncovered at Merrill, he said. Other states have been asked to take the lead in probing other banks.

"We have separate authority from the federal regulatory (scheme), separate and equal in many respects," said Franklin Terry Elder, Alaska's director of banking, securities and corporations. "We consider ourselves the cop on the beat in the protection of individual investors."

Utah has taken on the Goldman probe because of its heavy involvement in the North American Securities Administrators Association, the trade group coordinating the analyst inquiry.

Utah has investigators and auditors who have become quite skilled at reviewing broker-dealer issues, Taggart said.

A Goldman spokesperson declined to comment on the inquiries.

Capitol flak

While the states are convinced of their cause, those on Capitol Hill who championed analyst reform for almost a year before Spitzer entered the fray are seething at his intrusion—and masterful appropriation of the limelight.

The settlement imposed on Merrill by Spitzer is a "failed attempt to usurp federal rulemaking and oversight of capital markets," said Rep. Richard Baker in a statement last week.

Baker held hearings on analysts' conflicts last June, and pushed for the disclosure and other rules that were implemented by the SEC earlier in May. He has drawn a contrast between the public discussion that preceded these rules, and the closed, shot-gun style negotiations—with threat of criminal sanctions—that resulted in the Merrill settlement.

Spitzer, in turn, has castigated the SEC rules as porous.

"It is clear that Representative Baker does not grasp the issue at hand," said Juanita Scarlett, a spokesperson for the New York AG's office. "The hearings he chaired failed to produce any evidence or take any steps to protect investors."

Spitzer has noted that his probe has produced evidence of analyst wrongdoing, which investors can use in private lawsuits. The $100-million Merrill fine and analyst restrictions accomplish more than the SEC rules, he contends.

Already, Credit Suisse First Boston and Salomon Smith Barney C.N, which have said they will separate analyst pay from banking, have followed the Merrill deal, Scarlett said.

Blow to SEC

Some legal experts worry that Spitzer's readiness to impose nationwide restrictions—with states' backing—for various investment banks intrudes on the federal bailiwick.

While there has been a long tradition of "blue sky"—or state—securities regulation, the states have focused on regulating broker-dealers that have their offices primarily within a given state, said David Ruder, a professor of law at Northwestern University School of Law and former SEC chairman.

"The danger from the commission's point of view is that (otherwise) you would have a disparate regulation for different national broker-dealers," he said.

Accordingly, the SEC is likely to want to coordinate the states' inquiries, Ruder said. "I would be talking to the state administrators to make sure that the measures that were put in place wouldn't stifle the entire brokerage industry," he said.

Spitzer's approach has undercut the SEC's reputation as the world's most important securities market regulator, Cornell's Macey said. Moreover, the one-off Merrill settlement is an undesirable form of rule-making because it neglects protections enshrined in the administrative procedures act, he said.

"What (Spitzer) has done is very embarrassing for the SEC," Macey said. "He's taken an issue that was clearly and publicly on the SEC's agenda, and rather than allow the SEC to proceed in a measured fashion with respect to rule-making . . . he is proceeding by litigating." *Reuters*

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Opportunities from e-learning to be discussed

E-LEARNING or electronically supported learning is the wave of the present. In recent years, it refers to Web-based or online courses that make use of e-mail, videoconferencing, discussion boards, chat rooms, etc.

Filipino educators are starting to tap its power and want to learn more about it. As such, they will come together for the first ever national conference on e-learning at the Manila Hotel on Aug. 1-2, 2002, Roxas Boulevard, Manila.

The conference is titled "E-Learning in a Knowledge-Based Society."

E-learning presents learning opportunities for a Filipino workforce that must remain competitive in a changing world. Adult learners can pursue advanced training or pursue graduate degrees at their own pace. They don't even have to leave their work or their families.

There are many applications of online learning in basic education. Young students realize that learning can be found beyond the four walls of their classrooms. They can also communicate with teachers and peers around the world.

Global advances in e-learning have spurred local institutions to make use of the Internet for various purposes. They range from the promotion of courses via electronic fliers, to the delivery of full courses over the Internet.

Conference

The 1st National Conference on E-learning aims to bring together educators who want to explore the use of new technologies in education. They can share their experiences, launch collaborative activities, and set goals for future development.

The audience will consist of professionals in the basic, vocational, and higher education sectors. Conference organizers are expecting 1,000 participants.

The 1st National Conference on E-learning is a project of the Office of the President. It is organized by the Information Technology and E-Commerce Council (ITECC) through its human resource and development committee.

These are the themes for the sessions:

Day 1: Education in a Knowledge-Based Society; Framework of E-learning in the Philippines; Charting the Course for E-learning; Policies Related to E-learning; Launching of Projects; PCs for All; Best Web-based E-Learning Initiatives; E-learning Society; Parallel Sessions; Experiences in E-learning

Day 2 : Education + Technology; Instructional Design for E-learning; Building, Refining, Sustaining an E-learning Infrastructure; Parallel Sessions; Experiences in E-learning; Course Management Software; Open Standards in Online Learning; New and Emerging Technologies for Education

Papers should be submitted by June 30, 2002. A digital copy of the paper should be submitted to the conference secretariat. The conference papers committee recommends that documents be saved in the .RTF format. Maximum number of pages is 15, including illustrations.

Materials received by June 30, 2002 will be included in the conference CD-ROM.

Registration can be done online or on site.

The conference website is at: http://www.upou.org/elearningconference or contact the conference secretariat.

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Wine lifestyle: Strictly for wine connoisseurs

A WELL-MANNERED middle-age man, comfortable in 2A, just woke up from a few hours of shut-eye. He waves at the flight attendant and with boardroom conciseness, orders food.

He feels he needs a little something extra and calls back the flight attendant.

Always one step ahead of her passengers, she hands him a wine list and suggests "a glass of Puligny-Montrachet with the Chilean Sea Bass perhaps?"

Forty-five minutes before landing, he is busy romancing his post-dinner Champagne, a 1990 Billecart-Salmon Rose.

If you have been catching up on your lifestyle columns and the magazines from which they spin off, you are one of many who know that wine is more than something red that we gulp when we want our dates to think that we are reasonably refined.

The advent of the wine lifestyle brings about new standards and paradigms for a very old and entrenched way of spending time in a slightly confused party society. The 61 Latour wine on a table makes the statement for the evening, and at 35,000 feet and coasting, the journey.

For those who see flying as merely the safest means of transportation, they are not getting their full fare's worth. The days of seeing traveling as a necessary evil, a price we have to pay to get us where we will be rewarded with a good time, are all over. Unless.

Champagne

Business and first-class passengers drink Champagne for motivation to stow away their hand-carries. If they find themselves greeted with anything less, say an Asti Spumante, for example, their personal assistants and their travel consultants will get it.

Not a good way to start a short relationship that can otherwise be quite beautiful and romantic.

Traveling is a major component of the modern lifestyle but it is prone to blundering. It is on the same level as hotel accommodation and choices of venues for fine dining. For a brief few hours of our lives, the plane and its amenities hold us hostage as we search for lifestyle amenities on board.

WINE: The new opium

Most card-carrying members of frequent-flyers clubs are switched on to the wine lifestyle. Airline executives in Asia have started to pay attention to their in-flight wine list because they know it makes a statement about an airline. It could very well be the deciding factor when it comes to choosing an airline to spend 12 hours of our lives in.

Airlines

There are airlines that don't seem to get it. At least those are the only two explanations I can offer. Can it be possible that wines served in first-class in one airline are actually worse and obviously cheaper (only redeeming factor I suppose) than those served in the economy of another? That's equivalent to the honeymoon suite in one hotel can be mistaken by the untrained amateur as a single superior in another down the road, except for the rates of course.

Your business-class boarding pass doesn't exactly spell it out but for anyone who has hovered above the clouds a few times in that professional elegant middle-cabin section, you'd expect something more than common table wine with your meals. There you are to expect two choices of red in the Cru Bourgeois level if not slightly better, two choices of white in the Village level, and an LBV-equivalent port.

When we make a sharp left after we board and is led in person by the chief purser to our seats in the absolute front section, commonly referred to as first-class, the standards are high. Almost all major airlines and certainly those based in Asia, make a statement through their wine list in the first-class cabin. After all, how many bottles do they need to serve, on the average, six to eight passengers in that cabin? Three choices of Reds including at least one Bordeaux Grand Cru Classe from a reasonably drinkable vintage say 1986, 1988, 1989, 1990 or at least a 1994 which is drinking quite elegantly now, one premier cru Burgundy by a trusty producer or Grand Cru from a lesser-known name, and lastly one from Italy or to a crowd-pleasing powerhouse from the New World.

Two choices of White, a ler cru Chablis or ler cru Chassagne-Montrachet or Meursault perhaps, supported by a new world Chardonnay or Sauvignon-Blanc. For dessert, a legitimate Sauterne/Barsac, and to show real class and elegance, something from the Loire, a Coteaux-du-Layon, a Bonnezeaux perhaps, then the staple of dessert wine, port. A vintage port perhaps? I hope I am one of the unlucky few who has never seen that served even in first class.

Pampering

But why should airlines do this to us—pampering us with classy wine in their selections? The answer is quite simple actually. And it is pleasantly about the bottom line.

There isn't a more cost effective way for an airline to flaunt its high standards and impress those chosen few that they just love to court. These people take up just a little extra space on an aircraft and pay very much extra for the privilege. At high altitude, we have as much of their undivided attention as anyone is ever going to get from this bunch of fast-track high-rollers in the fast-paced world of business. If you pass up on this opportunity, it is worse than being given a full page in the INQUIRER and have nothing to sell.

Even in the economy, wines are routinely served. These are wines of decent quality, albeit not names to write mom about in a postcard. It is obvious to the slightly trained eye (and palate) that most airlines do make a noble effort to seek out obscure but reliable Cru Bourgeois class of wines for consumption in this cabin. But even they know that standards will continue to be raised. I will not be surprised to see the wines they serve in business-class today, appear in economy cabins soon. Such is the power of the wine lifestyle, something that propels leisure seekers and service providers alike to a new altitude of standards and discerning demands.

Ideal list

So what is the ideal wine list for the ambience of an A340 long-haul configuration? In wine lifestyle dictionaries, the word ideal is never clearly defined. From a seasoned traveler's perspective, a well-balanced wine list offering interesting selections is most welcome. Mix in a few lesser known great wines such as a Coteaux-du-Layon for example might just give us something to talk about on the ground.

It is also important that the food menu supports the wine list. We might want to include classic British Stilton if we are (finally) going to pamper our first-class passengers with a fine vintage port. We'll need delicate flavors in one choice of entree to give the elegant Red Burgundy a fighting chance to express itself. If a young New World Shiraz from an overripe vintage is on the card, a juicy steak might come to mind.

Cost is certainly a factor. But more importantly to airline executives who are forced and conditioned to see the wine lifestyle from a slightly more "tannic" point of view, they are concerned with availability, something that passengers don't think much about. There are advantages to having some degree of consistency. One airline is to be noted with approval for serving Lynch-gages in first-class. Even when the supply of the voluptuous and well-structured '86 dwindle to obscurity, passengers learn to live with an '89 or perhaps even the underrated '94.

The key is to deal with this issue head on. Faking it will make an airline look amateurish and incompetent, perhaps even a little pathetic. With a little bit of research and a great deal of work securing the source, it is surprisingly easy to build a competitive strategy us-

WINE/ C5

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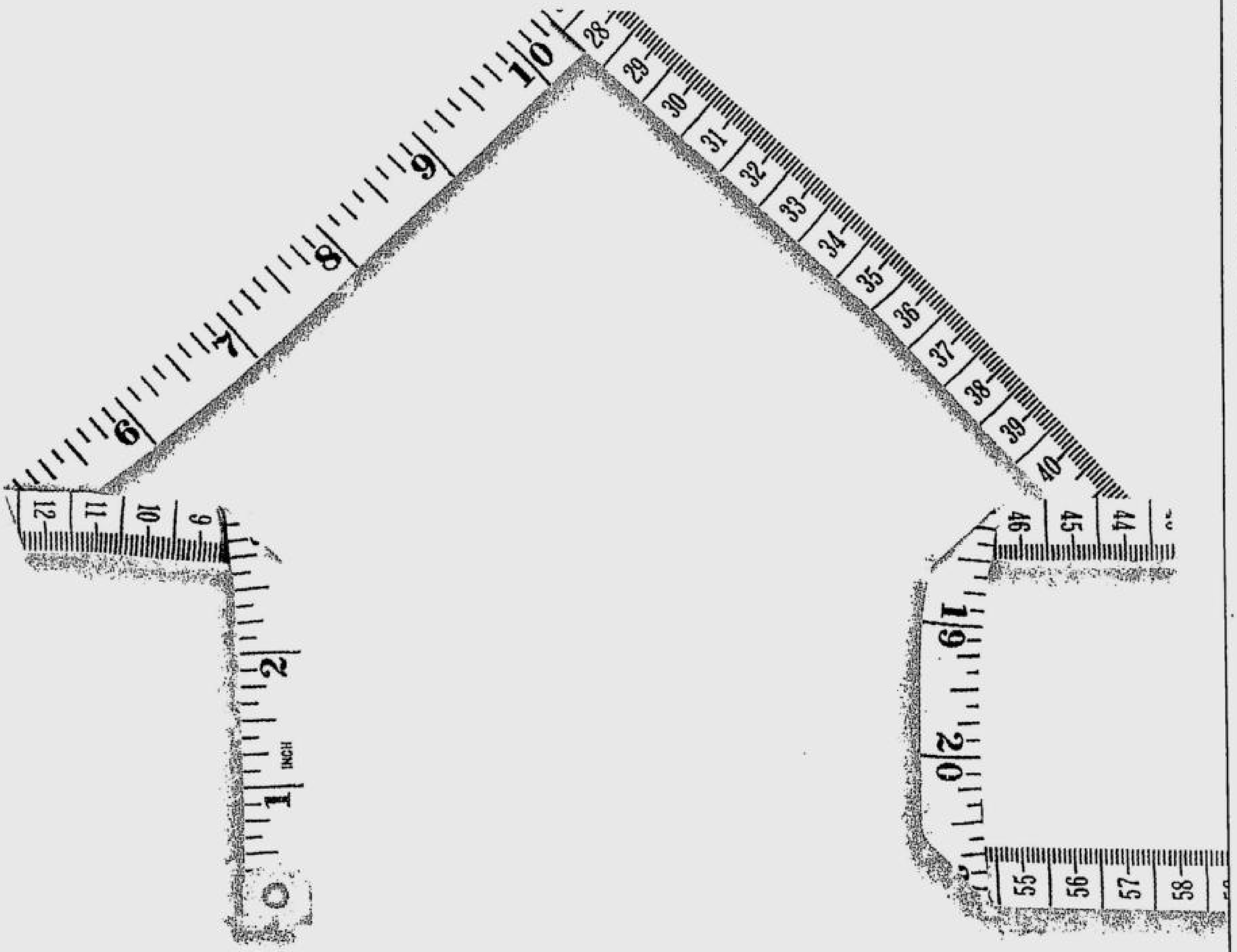

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FORMER CEO, Australian Institute of Company Directors, Ian Dunlop and Cesar Virata of the Bankers Association of the Philippines. PHOTOS BY JOHNNY VILLENA

PENSIVE moods. Jesus P. Estanislao, President Macapagal, Budget and Management Secretary Emilia T. Boncodin

THE COUNTRY's top business leaders recently attended the 6th Open Conference on Governance Reforms which adopted the theme, "Enhancing Standards of Ethics and Social Responsibility in Public and Corporate Governance."

The Institute of Corporate Directors and Institute for Solidarity Asia organizes the forum twice a year.

ICD head and former Finance Secretary Jesus P. Estanislao stated that the theme "underscores a conviction that without high ethical standards and a deep sense of responsibility to society and the nation, no governance reform can go far. Nor can it succeed."

PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange board director Alicia Rita M. Arroyo and deputy executive secretary Jose Tale.

"It is this conviction that has spurred the business community to build on the Institute of Corporate Directors of the Philippines—a permanent institution that can help promote on a sustained basis corporate governance reforms, founded upon globally accepted principles of ethics and social responsibility. The Business Sector Advisory Group on Corporate Governance is creating the institutional support mechanism for ICD," he said.

ALEJANDRO Roces, chair of the College Assurance Plan; Ernesto Garilao, former chair of the Philippine Business for Social Progress; Far Eastern University president Edilberto de Jesus and Justice Artemio Panganiban listen to Ambassador Howard Dee.

Wine . . .

From page C4

ing the wine list as a viable platform.

For the writer who doesn't have to deal with acidic problems in reality, drawing up a wine list is such a wonderful exercise of gastronomic fantasy. So indulge me while I give it a shot.

Perhaps something like this might do.

For first class:
Red Wine
1986 Chateau Gruaud-Larose, St. Julien
1990 Beaune Les Maconnets. Ler cru, Albert Morot
1991 Cloverdale Ranch Alexander Valley Merlot
White Wine
1995 St. Aubin. ler Cru 'La Chanteniere,' Oliver Laflaive
1996 Blanc de Lynch Bages
Dessert Wine
1986 Chateau Climens, Barsac
1985 Feist Vintage Port
1990 Coteaux du Layon, Vielles Vignes, Domaine de la Soucherie

For Business Class:
Red Wine
1994 Chateau Potensac, Grand Bourgeois, Medoc
1997 Brunello di Montalcino, Tuscany, by Argiano
White Wine
1997 Chateau Coutins-Lurton, Pessac-Leogman
1997 Beaulieu Vineyard Coastal Chardonnay
Dessert Wine
Cockburn 1994 Late Bottled Vintage port

Up there at 35,000 feet, things in life often feel a little different. Inside the cabin, territorially secured in our pre-assigned seats, little things that would ordinarily be overlooked and taken for granted on the ground take on a much larger meaning up here. We have less to think about so we think more about less number of things. Perhaps next time we walk down the aisle, we'll even notice a passenger engaging in a private conversation with the wine in his glass. In solitude, he is forming an indelible impression and opinion about his host, the airline that was chosen on the ground.

If it happens to be a 1985 Nuits-St.-Georges from Leroy in his glass, you can bet your bottom dollar that he is silently complimenting himself for having chosen the right airline. He knows he has earned the right to be treated with such respect. And this airline understands the point and gets it across.

So cheers to the airline executives who are hip and coasting on air, for they will surely win the hearts and more importantly, the loyalty of those who appreciate the wine lifestyle. *Denny Wang*

Hybrid . . .

From page C1

time improving performance," he said, without specifying a time frame.

Tax credits offered in Japan and the United States will help the vehicles gain acceptance, while European car makers' aims to cut carbon dioxide emissions to 140 grams per kilometer by 2008 will push them towards hybrids, he added.

Toyota reckons hybrids will probably have a long lead time before fuel cell vehicles provide real competition.

On a "well to wheel" basis—which tracks the efficiency of fuel technology from the time an energy source is extracted from the ground to when it turns the wheels—Toyota says hybrids offer almost the same amount of fuel efficiency as current fuel cell technology. *Reuters*

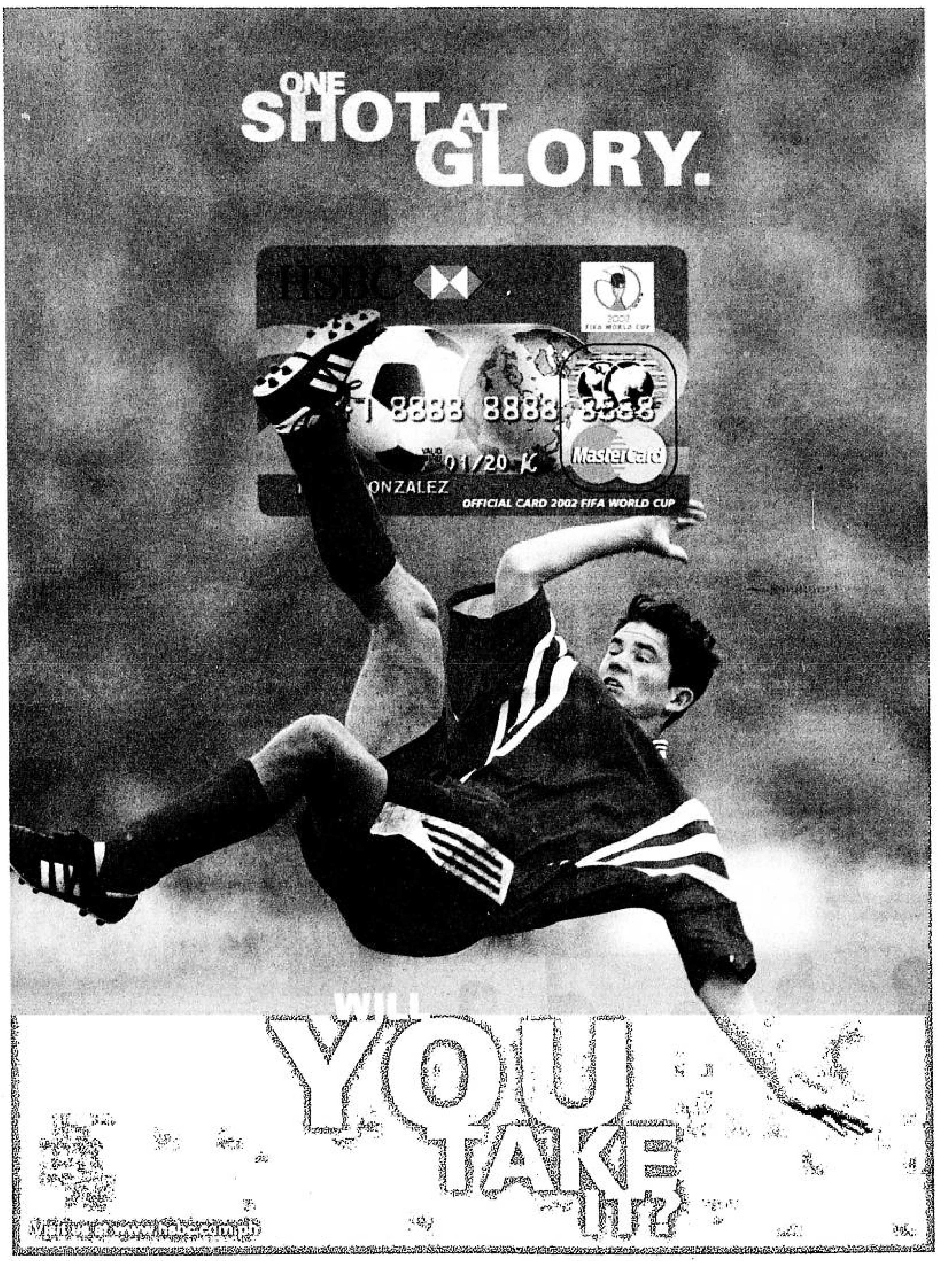
NCC offers computer training this month

THE NATIONAL Computer Institute, the training arm of the National Computer Center, announces the courses to be offered this month.

Executives, IT workers, professionals, trainors and those who want to understand, use and/or pursue a career in the IT field are invited to be part of the growing number of NCI graduates.

An electronic commerce awareness seminar will be conducted. This is in line with the Electronic Commerce Act, which provides for the use of electronic means in the delivery of government services.

For inquiries, please call the registrar at 920-0101 locals 206 and 207.



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Smart travel destinations

BEFORE summer ends, how about going off on that one final tour to cap a great season of vacations? Here are a few Smart suggestions for you.

In Luzon, let's start out with the obvious—the City of Pines. For decades now, known as the summer capital of the country, Baguio still remains the top draw for summer excursionists. 5000 feet above sea level, its cool mountain weather and so un-tropical appeal continue to pack in crowds of Filipinos wanting to get away from the summer heat.

For Smart subscribers, Baguio should prove more enjoyable with extra perks available on summer weekends as part of the It's Gr8 2 B Smart summer program. All Baguio Country Club members who are on Smart get to enjoy a round of Baguio on horseback for free. Party with the hottest local bands in Gimbals, or enjoy upscale entertainment at Pilgrim's Café. Smart guarantees its subscribers front row seats in these popular Baguio nightspots.

Fast gaining ground as a vacation favorite is the northern paradise of Pagudpud. Not too far off from Laoag, Ilocos Norte, Pagudpud is home to some of the best beaches this side of Boracay, as well as coral reefs that lure divers from all over.

Smart subscribers visiting Pagudpud for the first time are in luck—Smart is giving away free daytime tours of the place every weekend this summer.

South of Metro Manila sits the inlet of Puerto Galera, a haven for water sports recreation. Puerto Galera's coast has developed into a marine playpen, where fun-loving folk enjoy water skiing, kayaking, scuba diving, snorkeling, sunbathing and swimming. On summer weekends, a Smart ferry leaves for Puerto Galera's White Beach from Batangas on Fridays at 9 a.m., offering free rides to Smart subscribers, and returns Sundays at 1 p.m.

Closer to the capital is Batangas province, home of some of the oldest ancestors of the Tagalog culture. Travel manuals sometimes define the must-go places in the province by its leading landmark the Taal volcano. Northwest of Taal are the towns of Nasugbu, Lian and Matabungkay, which lead to strips of beach that have been vacation favorites for years. The small town of Anilao has gained acclaim as a world-class dive spot. Smart offers a free extra dive, or for those who have yet to get their feet wet, a free intro dive exclusive to Smart subscribers every weekend.

Those who would rather stay on terra firma may opt to visit the country's largest amusement park Enchanted Kingdom in Sta. Rosa, Laguna. On weekends throughout the summer, Smart will be giving away ride-all-you-can passes to lucky Smart subscribers.

Any trip to the South should begin at the Queen City of the South—Cebu. History buffs will surely appreciate vestiges of the beginnings of Spanish colonization such as Magellan's Cross, the Santo Niño Basilica and Museum, Fort San Pedro and the Plaza Independencia. Beach habitues will have their fill here, too, as Cebu, neighboring Mactan, as well as the erstwhile "best-kept-secret" Moalboal offer havens for sunbathing, swimming, snorkeling and diving. Smart subscribers at the Cebu Beach Club get to enjoy even more with an offer of free massage by the beach to 20 Smart subscribers a day on summer weekends. Meanwhile, lucky Smart subscribers partying at the perpetually packed Cebu nightspots Ratsky and Mi Vida get to enjoy free drinks—courtesy of Smart.

And what would this summer suggestion be without mention of the world-famous Boracay Island? The powdery fine white sands and the amazing azure waters of Boracay have earned the praise "the best beach in the world". Smart subscribers at the Boracay Station I establishments Waling-Waling, Cocomangas, Boracay Plaza and Pearl of the Pacific can enjoy the well-known Boracay massages by the beach this summer for free.

Further south, Davao is definitely a destination to go to. The world's largest area in terms of total area, Davao is at the forefront of a resurgent Mindanao. Home of Mt. Apo, the monkey-eating Philippine Eagle, Samal Island, and Paradise Island, Davao is certainly a stop for the nature lover. Smart subscribers off for a weekend escape to Paradise Island get free drinks. Same as their fellow Smart subscribers who visit the Blue Gre Café, Lava Rocks and The Venue.

Go ahead and make a Smart choice before summer ends. Get caught using a Smart Celfone or using any of Smart's services by the roving members of the Smart Amazing Crew in any of these great destinations for a chance to win a Siemens C45 or an Ericsson A3618, plus lots of fabulous prizes.

FREE
SIM
Swap

THIS little girl is getting one of the amazing benefits of Smart in Paradise Island, Davao.

Seaweed farming booms in northern Mindanao

RECOGNIZING the benefits derived from Gracilaria farming, the PCAMRD of the Department of Science and Technology has provided a grant of P500,000 to the project "Farming,Expansion, Enchancement of Processing Technologies and marketing of Agar" under the Aquatic Technology Management and Enterprise Development (Atmed) Program in 2001.

The project aims to provide livelihood opportunities to fisherfolk in northern Mindanao, particularly in Misamis Oriental and Gingoog City, under the joint efforts of the Milamdec Foundation and the Agarophyta Philippines Inc. (API), the extension arms of Xavier University.

The three major components of the project include seaweed farming expansion of fisherfolk associations in Magsaysay, Villanueva and Laguindingan in Misamis Oriental, upgrading the laboratory facilities for fisherfolk to meet quality standards; and intensive marketing of agar products in Davao and other neighboring towns. Milamdec takes charge of the training, information dissemination and technology

Transfer while the API focuses on the processing, promotion, and marketing of agar.

As part of the training assistance to seaweed farmers, Milamdec, in collaboration with the DOST, conducted a training for members of the Tubajon Fisherfolk Multipurpose Cooperative in Laguindingan; Seaside Village Multipurpose Cooperative in Villanueva; San Juan Fisherfolk Cooperative in Gingoog; and San Isidro Multipurpose Cooperative in Magsaysay. The training focused on the farming techniques and post-harvest management of Gracilaria where the trainees gained skills in managing the organization and sustaining the seaweed farming project. After the training, some women-trainees were encouraged to shift from small-scale enterprises to the sago and gulaman refreshment business with others became the API's regular suppliers of agar.

The API has formulated and produced the AC 10, a combination of agar and carageenan for tissue culture; AS 50, an agar-based product combined with other seaweed extract; gulaman powder; and food gel agar.

These products are being supplied to Lapanday Tissue Culture Laboratory, Davao Orchid, Del Monte Philippines (for tissue culture of papaya), Fuentespina Orchid Farm in Davao, Harnwell Company, Limbros Marketing, Bab's and Bloom Laboratory, Upland NGO in Manila, Dole Philippines, Oro Rama Supercenter, and Marsman Drysdale. The API has also maintained regular buyers from the local supermarkets and laboratories within Cagayan de Oro, Davao, Iligan, and the Visayas for agricultural, microbial and domestic uses. International markets were also penetrated by API through market linkages, research, and promotions to Japan and the United States.

Milamdec, on the other hand, produced manuals on Gracilaria farming, agar processing, and food applications for distribution to local seaweed farmers, agar consumers, local government units, and other government agencies.

To bring more benefits to other fisher folk association in northern Mindanao, Milamdec also plans to expand the seaweed farms with the arrangements that their produce will be bought by the API.

NEWSBOYS, VENDORS INDUCT OFFICERS

The Newsboy and Vendors of Cainta, Marikina, Antipolo Association Inc., founded by Eulogio F. Alfonso, recently swore in its new set of officers before Cainta mayor Nick Felix. Sworn in were Felix Legaspi Jr., president, Eulogio F. Alfonso, 1st vice president, Emilio Militar, 2nd vice president, Ana Ogayco, 3rd vice president, Jaime Reforsado, secretary, Regina Morales, auditor, Rogelio Ramos, treasurer, Benjie Castillo, business manager, Rodolfo Santiago, PRO, Armando Maglaya and Villazar Villaruel, sergeants-at-arms, Felix Penaflor, Diego Roma, and Armin Lozano, unit managers. The Association covers the Cainta, Marikina City and Antipolo City areas. Its objectives include the development of the newspaper business among the vendors of the area, the improvement of the quality of its members' lives, and to assist its members during financial crises.

EDSA SHANGRI-LA TENNIS CAMP

Edsa Shangri-La, Manila's first-ever Tennis Camp for 2002 titled 'Summer Swingin' Fun' was a big hit. The program, designed by Davis Cupper Joseph 'Popet' Lizardo for kids as young as 5 to teens aged 18, is extended until June 23. Shown is Joseph Lizardo, Intermed-Cherifer Multivitamins' Bob Segovia, and the first batch of Tennis Camp participants during the graduation celebration held at Gillespie's. The second Tennis Camp starts on May 31. Registration is ongoing at the Health Club reception desk at the Lobby Level of Edsa Shangri-La Manila. All participants get a souvenir shirt, a chance to win Head premium items, and a certificate of completion of the program. Edsa Shangri-La's Tennis Camp is co-organized by Global Sports and sponsored by Cherifer Multivitamins, Milo, Nike and Head. For inquiries, call the Health Club at 633-8888 extensions 2901 and 2902.

ASEAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRY CONFAB

The Samahan sa Pilipinas ng mga Industriyang Kimika (SPIK) hosts this year's 32nd Asean Chemical Industry Club Board of Directors Meeting, Conference and Exhibits on Oct. 15 to 17 at the Edsa Shangri-la Hotel. The event will bring together industry leaders from the region and other parts of the world to achieve greater cooperation, opportunity and development of the chemical industry. Shown are Edwin Umali, overall chair of the organizing committee, Tes L. Hernandez, president of Expotrade, event manager, Jacinto Mantaring Jr., president of SPIK, Bel Bautista, SPIK secretary general, David Lih, SPIK director and chair for exhibits, Eduardo Abacan, chair for business matching and chair for responsible care council, Hazel Estimo and Peika del Rosario, Expotrade project managers, and Cesar Montano, director and co-chair for programs.

Hope worldwide benefit concert at RPN-9

THE HOPE worldwide "Lean On Me" All-Star Benefit Concert, the culminating activity of the charity institution's fund-raising campaign for the year held at the Cuneta Astrodome will be shown on June 2, 9 p.m. as RPN Channel 9's feature for Sunday's Big Event.

Top artists who performed at the concert include Kuh Ledesma, Jaya, Barbie's Cradle, Kyla, Chad Borja, Maxine, Maegan Aguilar, D-Coy, Legit Misfitz, Tyrone and Edgina of The Real Groove, Divas, Charisse Sobremonte, K.I.R., Battle Crew, Indio and the AMS Manila Band. It also included the video participation of Sharon Cuneta, Gary Valenciano, Martin Nievera, Regine Velasquez, Cacai Velasquez, Janno Gibbs, Lani Misalucha, Richard Gomez, Dingdong Dantes and Sen. Juan Flavier.

"Lean On Me" was directed by Kulay's main man the multi-awarded producer and MTV director Boom Dayupay. It was, what Boom calls, "edutainment" with a heart, what with sights and sounds that tugged at the heart. There was music and dancing, interviews and insights but most of all, an entertaining presentation to shed light on the valiant effort of HOPE worldwide Inc. Philippines "to bring hope to a hurting world."

HOPE worldwide Inc. Philippines has, for its beneficiaries, the urban poor children in areas such as Baseco Compound in Port Area, Manila; Smokey Mountain in Tondo, Manila; and Payatas in Quezon City. HOPE's programs and services are carried out through HOPE Youth Centers (HYCs) in these areas, which include the Day Care Program (DCP), Drop-In-Program (DIP), Computer Learning Program (CLP) and the Program for the Prevention, Identification and Treatment of Child Sexual Abuse (PIT-CSA). Community-based and preventive in approach, HYCs address problems such as child sexual abuse, children on the streets and child neglect. The Center acts as a safe harbor for children where trained, full-time staff gains access to children who are at risk.

HOPE worldwide Inc. Philippines is a charity-based organization and is a subsidiary of HOPE worldwide Inc. HOPE worldwide currently has programs in over 80 countries all over the world and has been granted special consultative status with the Economic and Social Development Council of the United Nations. In the Philippines, HOPE has been caring for poor children, youth and communities since 1993 and is licensed by the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

For more information about HOPE worldwide and its programs and services, inquiries may be directed to 551-8073 or hopephil.com.ph. HOPE worldwide may also be visited on the Web at www.hopeworldwide.org.

Finex symposium

THE FINANCIAL Executives Institute of the Philippines (Finex) is inviting the general public to attend a symposium on the "Proposed Corporate Recovery Act (CRA) Bill" to be held on June 4, Tuesday, 8 a.m. to 12 noon at the Skytop, 14th floor, Hotel Intercontinental Manila, Ayala Avenue, Makati City. Invited speakers are Rep. Oscar S. Moreno and SEC chair Lilia R. Bautista. For inquiries, call the Finex secretariat at 811-4184, 811-4186 and 811-4052 or e-mail avviloria@finex.org.ph.

GREATER MEDICARE ACCESS Para Sa Masa
Pres

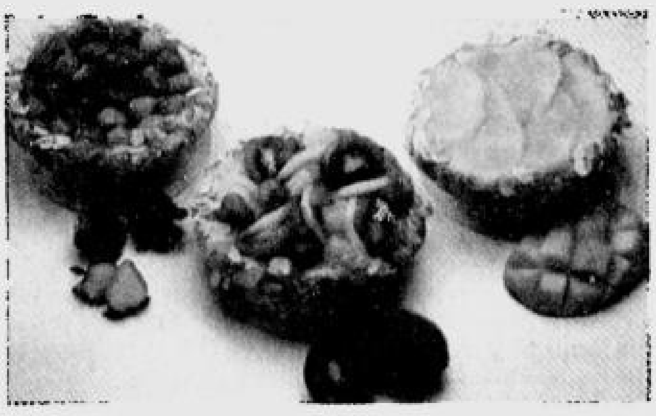
KALOOKAN INDIGENTS RECEIVE GMA ID

Some 500 poor families from the second district of Kalookan City were recently granted health insurance coverage through the Medicare Para sa Masa program of the Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PhilHealth). In ceremonies held at the Grace Park Elementary School recently, PhilHealth president and CEO Dr. Francisco T. Duque III (fifth from left) and Kalookan first lady Gigi Malonzo (fourth from left) distributed the new Greater Medicare Access (GMA) ID cards to four of the recipients (from left, holding mock-ups) Juanito Perante, Nestor Fernandez, Jesus de la Torre and Francisco Flores. Through the GMA Ids, the enrolled families will be able to avail themselves of allowances for room and board, drugs and medicines, as well as x-ray and other laboratory exams if confined in any of the 1,502 PhilHealth-accredited hospitals in the country.

Product FILES

Tarts for sweet hearts

DELIFRANCE has recently introduced Fruit Tarts. This is the most delectable of desserts made from crisp, rich and sweet pastry filled with creamy custard and juicy fresh fruits. Choose among the Strawberry Tart, Tropical Tart and the Mango Tart. Petite and prettily shaped, these pastry shells filled with blended fruit are eye-catching and taste-tempting, definitely the perfect gift for any occasion.



Running a school takes entrepreneurial savvy

By Myrna Rodriguez-Co
Contributor

SANTA ROSA, Nueva Ecija—A visitor in search of signs of progress in rural Philippines won't be too disappointed dropping by here. Though it is undoubtedly small (population, 54,200; area, 24,162 hectares), Santa Rosa, Nueva Ecija, is no longer "just a small town."

It has taken on in recent years a suburban, semi-commercial look, owing in part to its proximity to Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija's main commercial hub.

It has also become the site of pilot agribusiness projects like the Tilapia Fish Farming Project of IDRC, the Crop Productivity and Farmers Training Center of Novartis Foundation, and the famed Reymill water pumping windmill.

Two hundred of this brand of windmill have been put up here, earning for Santa Rosa the sobriquet "windmill town."

Santa Rosa is also where progressive Holy Cross College is located. Sprawling on a 1.5-ha lot along Maharlika Highway, the school has been a proud landmark of the town since the early postwar.

In later years, the school made a strong bid to contribute to building up the community. Integrating tertiary with elementary and high school education, Holy Cross seeks to provide the province with the technical and managerial manpower it needs for its nascent agro-industrial development thrust.

Parochial beginnings

Holy Cross College began as Holy Cross Academy, founded by Msgr. Fernando Lansangan, then parish priest of Santa Rosa, in 1946. It started as a high school and for the next 35 years seemed perfectly content staying as one.

When Monsignor Lansangan died in 1980, Dr. Raquel T. Sta. Ines, grandniece of the priest, took over Holy Cross. As his only flesh and blood relative, she inherited part of the property together with other direct heirs. When the other heirs asked her to administer the school, Sta. Ines did not hesitate for she had by then gained considerable experience running a family-owned rural bank in Muñoz, Nueva Ecija.

It was at the beginning of her tenure that Holy Cross pursued a strategy of growth and innovation. In 1980, primary and elementary school courses were introduced and then collegiate courses in 1982.

Keeping up with change

The school was simply keeping up with the times, says Sta. Ines. The winds of change were blowing hard during the '80s, she recalls. The fruits of development had by then begun to overflow from urban centers into nearby towns.

Adjacent to Cabanatuan City, Santa Rosa had started to emerge on its own as an agri-commercial center.

"With such profound changes, we had to listen to what the community was telling us in terms of its new aspirations and needs," she said.

The first batches of college students graduated with BS education and BS commerce and management degrees. By the 1990s, when information technology was changing lifestyles and revolutionizing ways of conducting business, Holy Cross had to pay attention again.

The result was the opening in 1994 of associate and bachelor's courses in computer science. Another outcome was the introduction of computer subjects into the high school syllabi.

Upgrading facilities

Curricular expansion can hardly take place without a parallel enhancement of facilities. As administrator of the school, Sta. Ines, together with the board of trustees, had to ensure that appropriate facilities were built or upgraded to support academic reforms.

At first, when Holy Cross College had to build, management initially did it from their own resources. They were wary of loans. Nor did they resort to raising funds from raffles and beauty contests.

"We didn't like raising money at the expense of students and their parents," Sta. Ines explains.

She elaborates that the college population of Holy Cross mostly belongs to C and D income groups.

"Our high school graduates—those who can afford—do not want to stay; they'd much rather go to Manila or to Cabanatuan, at least. They prefer a new environment." Thus, college students of Holy Cross are the working students and those already married and with children. For this reason, too, Holy Cross has gone slow with tuition fee increases especially for the college department.

So, "*sariling sikap*" was how two three-story buildings, for example, were built.

Viability of financing

In 1996, the old high school building was running to seed. A close inspection revealed that renovation was no longer feasible. Management was advised to put up a new building. As it required a big capital outlay, they considered getting financing.

At first the school's conservative financial policy stood in the way. But Sta. Ines had not been seasoned in banking for nothing. Eventually, the school came to terms with the need to obtain credit in order to build new facilities.

The Social Security System was then offering a special loan program for educational institutions. But as luck would have it, the program had run out of funds just when Holy Cross was about ready with its documents and other requirements.

As they looked around for other options, they stumbled on Land Bank Cabanatuan. Art Andres, Landbank account officer, apprised them of the Industrial Support Services Expansion Program (Issep), whose target borrowers included not only manufacturing and support enterprises but also educational institutions strongly linked to manufacturing. Funded by the Japan Bank for International Cooperation and implemented by the Development Bank of the Philippines, the loan facility was being retailed through a network of intermediary banks, one of which was Landbank.

DR. Sta. Ines with the department heads and staff in front of the high school building.

The loan takeout was P10 million, released in three tranches. Interest rate at the time the loan was contracted was fixed at 15.5 percent for eight years.

"We felt lucky the rate was fixed. At some point, rates went up to rarefied heights. I saw friends in business go bankrupt because of interest payments that went haywire," Sta. Ines reveals.

By December 1997, Holy Cross had a new four-story high school building with 18 classrooms, two science laboratories, and six rest rooms. The fourth floor lodges a chapel and a convent for the two Franciscan apostolate sisters who oversee the elementary and high school departments, respectively.

Meanwhile, in the old high school building, the library had more than enough room to expand.

Though quarterly payments are hefty, these have always been paid on time. Entrepreneurial drive helped ensure prompt payments. A school-run canteen and book/school supplies store with photocopying services help generate extra revenues. In two years, the loan with DBP/Landbank would be fully paid.

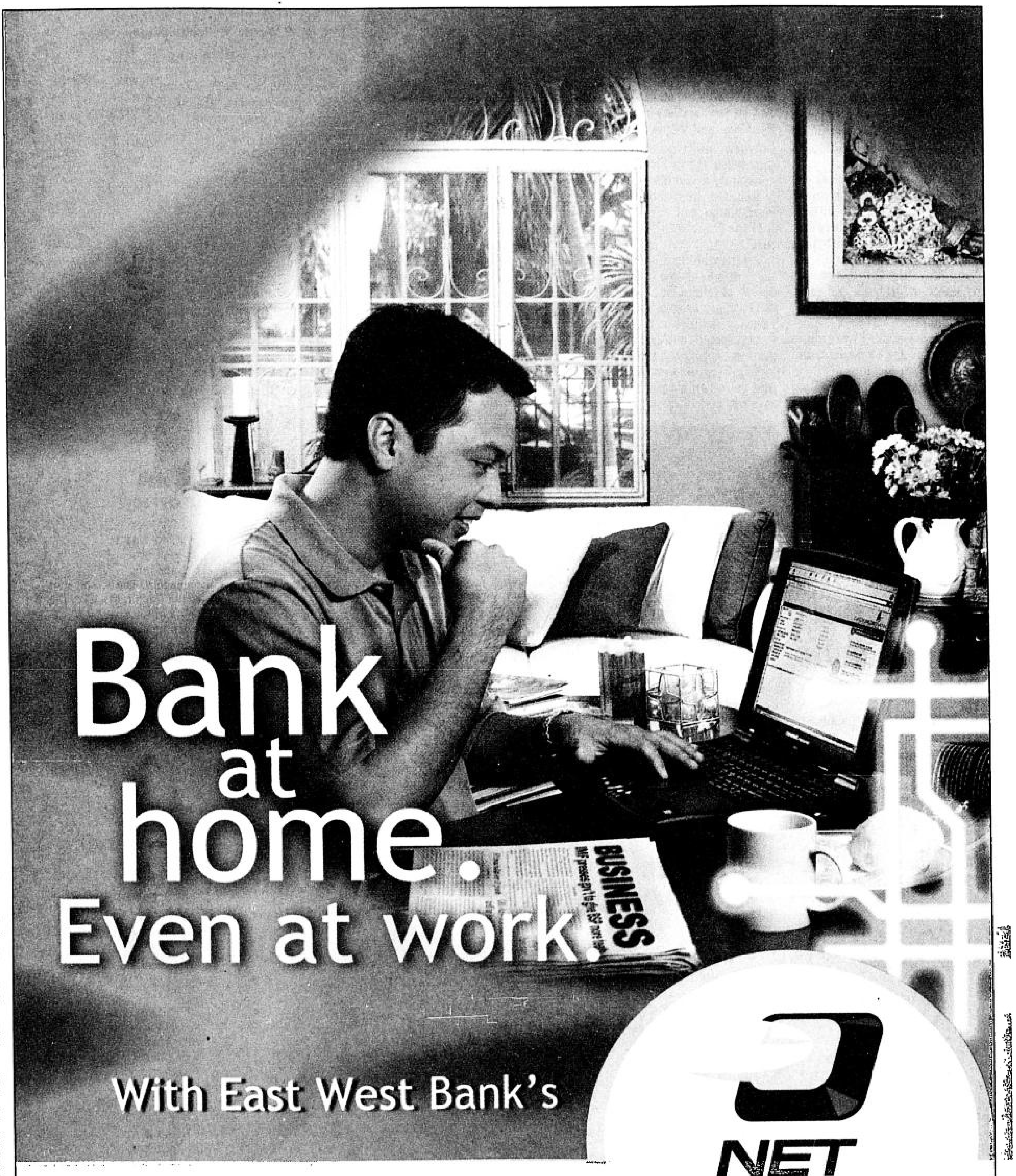
Continuing expansion

The school's expansion mindset seems to be just warming up. There are more plans brewing: A new four-story building for preparatory and elementary school, covered auditorium, elevators in each of the new buildings and classrooms for special children: "Time and again, a parent would entreat me to put up classes for the autistic, the deaf, and the deaf-mute. I think that is a need that begs to be served," Sta. Ines reveals.

She wonders aloud whether DBP's Issep and Landbank would still be available with its soft terms and long-term repayment modes to support some of these plans. She wishes, though, that "not for profit" institutions like schools would be allowed lower interest rates and that repeat borrowers with good track record would be subject to fewer requirements.

"Yes," she concludes, "with a little help from 'friends,' our school can be a better development catalyst in the province."

(The Issep program, now on its second phase, is a 35.35-billion yen policy-based credit facility from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) for the growth and expansion needs of investment enterprises (IEs) in the manufacturing sector and selected IEs in the non-manufacturing sector. For more information, call DBP's industrial restructuring and research at 867-3221 or SME department at 815-0942. For information on participating banks, call the program lending sector at 867-3048.)



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Can two mothers and two sons work together?

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

THIS is what a seasoned uniform maker and a young designer are trying to do with their son and mother, respectively.

Digna Rosales, who has been in the uniform business for 25 years and Rajo T. Laurel, who very early on discovered the art of marketing oneself, have formed Laurel et Ross Enterprises Inc., a firm that designs and manufactures corporate uniforms.

The P20-million venture will have Rosales as chair of the board, president and CEO; Laurel as vice chair, EVP and creative director; Virginia T. Laurel as the finance officer and Maynard Rosales-Peñalosa as the IT head.

"The beauty of the relationship is simple. I am the creative director so I create the designs; Tita Digna is the one who produces the designs and prices these; my Mom handles the money and Maynard handles the IT (which actually means the visual presentations of the uniforms)," says Rajo.

Rosales volunteers that the venture is a "passing of the baton" thing. After building her uniform business for over two decades, she realizes she has no one to pass it on to.

Son Maynard is into theater, arts, music and technology. Laurel, she says, is like a son to him having known him since he was 13.

Rajo and Maynard were classmates at the De La Salle Zobel High School in Alabang.

ALL in the family. Virginia and Rajo Laurel; and Maynard Rosales-Peñalosa and Digna Rosales.

She says as early as then Rajo was fascinated with the garments business and would follow her around as she did her work and constantly asked her questions.

But after high school, she advised him to study business saying it is the foundation of any venture.

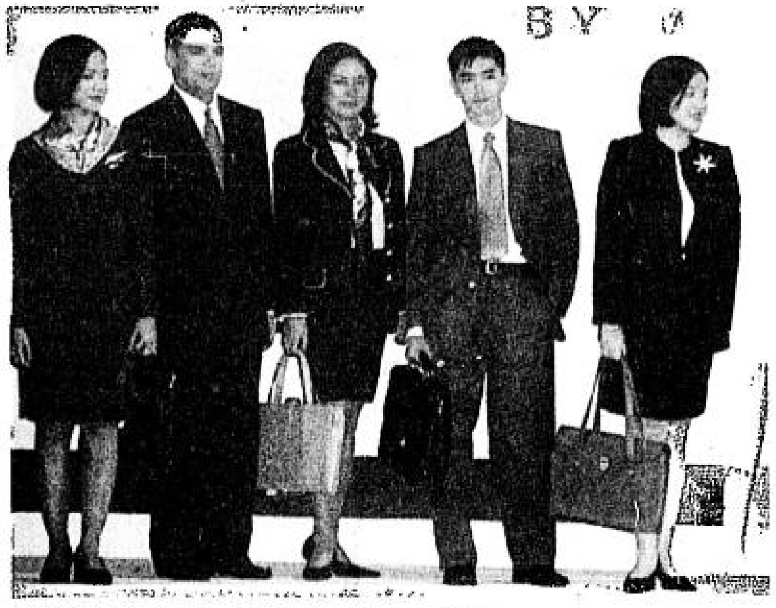
After finishing an AB Management degree major in human resource development, Rajo went to the Fashion Institute in New York to study the technical aspects of design such as cutting, lines, proportions, colors and fabric.

Rajo's climb was quite quick and he became a darling of the fashion world, having the talent but more importantly the gift of gab that has endeared him to many of his clients.

He lost touch with his Tita Digna for years.

Meantime, Rosales continued with her uniform business but a few years ago met some labor problems so she decided to close her shop and moved her production outside Manila.

Last November, Rajo says The Westin Philippine Plaza asked him if he can do their uniform. He was willing to do it but knew his limitations. Going into the uniform business takes much more than just skill in designing or choosing the cloth.



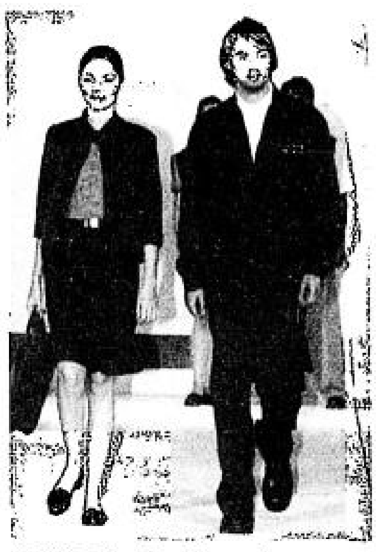
THE NEW Westin Philippine Plaza uniform.

"I couldn't just do it. I had no people background," Rajo says. He and his mother, who manages his business, discussed it and they agreed to approach Digna.

"I embraced the idea. I knew Rajo since he was 13," Digna enthuses.

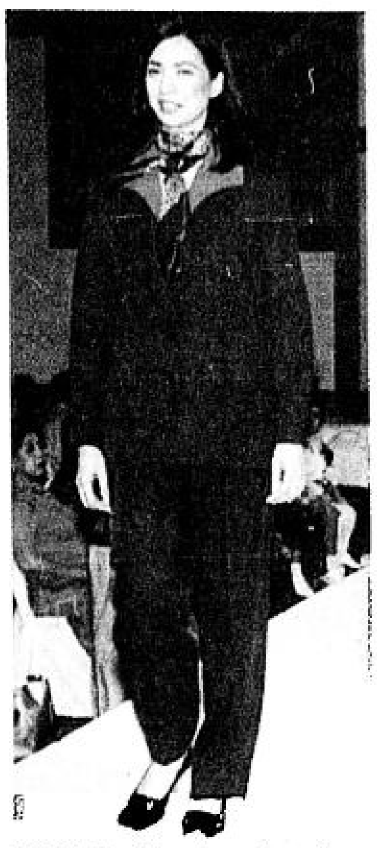
The thought of going into business with family members did not bother the two. They relate that when they go out to eat, Digna naturally gravitates toward Rajo and Virginia to Maynard.

They also have more similarities with the other—like Digna and Rajo walk fast while Virginia and Maynard like to take their time; Digna and Rajo talk about designs while Virginia and Maynard can talk finance.



NEW Cebu Pacific uniforms

"We are balanced by a lot of discussions and a lot of food," Rajo concludes.



FEMALE athlete's uniform for the Asian Games.

The designer says he wants his family members to be involved in his business and he is working to convince his other siblings and even in-laws to be involved.

Rajo is not the first fashion designer to do corporate uniforms. Ramon Antonio did the uniform of Philippine Airlines flight attendants while Inno Sotto did Duty Free Phils.

Rajo was also tasked to design the athletes' uniform for the Asian Games.

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LIFESTYLE

Artsy Design

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso ◎ Subsection Editor Lito B. Zulueta

BALAYAN ROW

There's more to it than meets the eye

By Constantino C. Tejero

BALAYAN, a sleepy Batangas town famous for its *bagoong* and *lechon*, has been caught in a whirlwind of controversy. And McDonald's, the giant American food corporation now on its 21st year in the

THERE'S MORE/ p.D2

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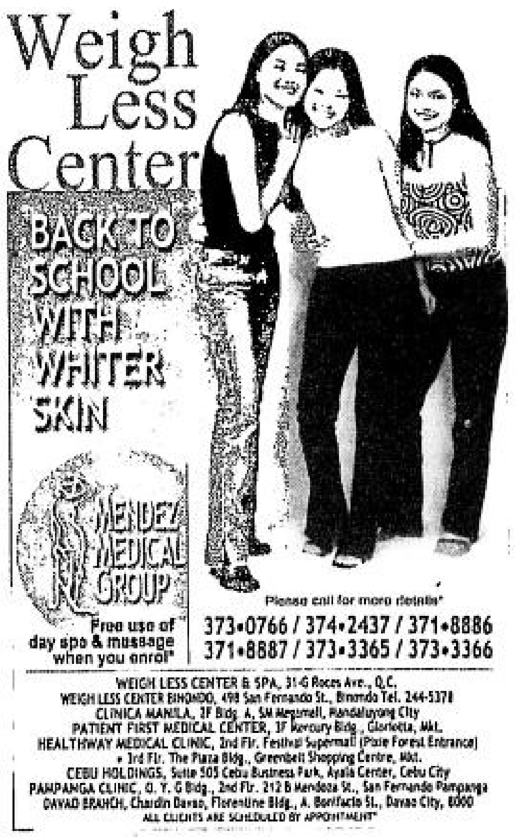

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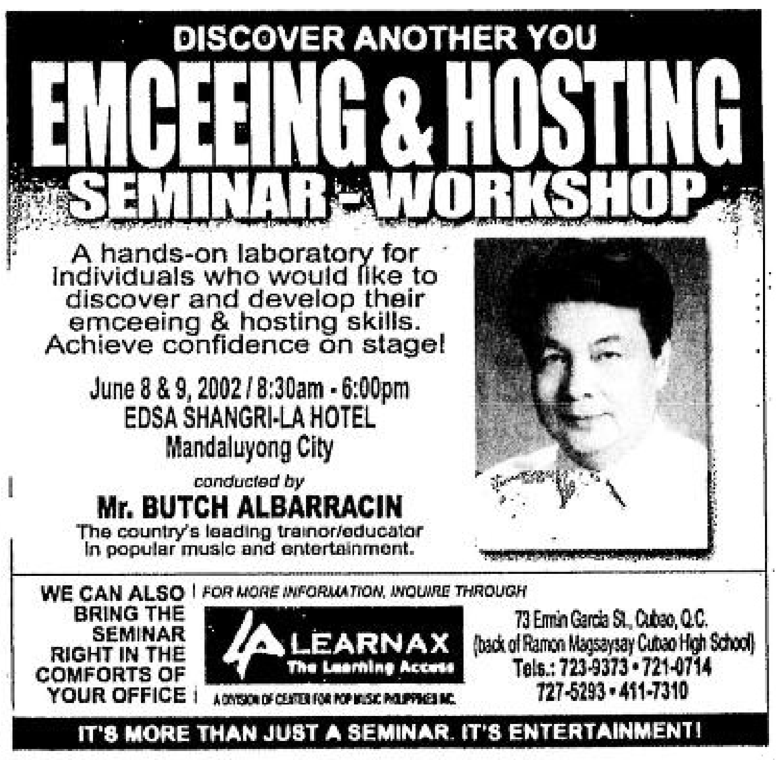

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There's more to it than meets the eye

DILAPIDATED belfry

PHOTOS: JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Is the Balayan controversy really a cultural-heritage issue? Or a religious one? Or a business war?

FATHER Ernesto I. Mandanas Jr.

From page D1

Philippines, has gotten into its stickiest situation yet in the country.

It all started late last year when Golden Arches Development Corp., the local McDonald's franchise holder, began constructing an outlet near Balayan Church, within church property. Passions flamed.

This is one of the 26 churches in the country that have been declared national cultural treasures by the National Museum. The National Commission for Culture and the Arts nominated them for restoration, as a flagship project for the new millennium.

McDonald's incursion into church property is deemed by some as brazen, anti-Filipino, even anti-Church, and the people involved have been dubbed Judases, if not Philistines.

A notice of violation was issued to it by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, for constructing without an environmental compliance certificate. The National Historical Institute recommended a second cease-and-desist order (CDO). Twice, all construction activities have ceased.

Real-estate space

One wonders why the McDonald's people couldn't have foreseen this coming, that they would do something inflammatory and not expect a corresponding reaction. And, of all the nooks and crannies in this archipelago, why within church perimeter, which is sacred ground?

"When we look for a location, what we call real-estate space, we consider the visibility, easy access, the population, demographics, economic activity, whether the place is suitable for business," says Kenneth S. Yang, executive vice president of Golden Arches Development. "A church is within the center of activity in a town, it is where people congregate, and it is surrounded by residential areas. That's the typical profile of a real-estate space. That's why the area near a church is suitable for our kind of business."

Yang has been with McDonald's Philippines for 12 years. He says the company has seen more than 1,000 sites all over the country that it has either rejected or accepted. McDonald's has now 240 stores in the Philippines.

"We really investigate all issues related to the site," Yang says. "We secure the title, we make sure the site is commercial, and we comply with all the legal requirements."

He firmly denies the accusation that there was no consultation with the DENR and the NHI before construction started in Balayan, and shows several letters addressed from one office to another. "When we do something, we don't do it unilaterally. *Na kami lang?* We consult with everyone. As a company, we're very sensitive to and supportive of the culture of any community we go into. That's our philosophy."

Specific points

He also firmly denies accusation that the construction goes on even after two CDOs have been issued. "We will not do anything to violate the law. We're a large company. That's not how we do business. We were surprised when the first CDO came. Based on the construction of our other outlets, the DENR certificate is secured while the construction is ongoing. In this case, we were surprised because we were almost midway, or 40 percent finished. Immediately *tumigil kami noon*. We followed the requirements, and we paid a penalty of several thousand pesos.

SHOWY church interior

"After the first CDO, we had an agreement with NHI executive director Danilo Manalang. They were very specific on certain points: that the area should be lighted, the design to blend with the setting, the greenery to be developed, and we use a certain kind of tiles for the building, a certain kind of paint, *na ganitong kulay*... With the second CDO, NHI chair Ambeth Ocampo asked for more time and consultation. Again we immediately stopped construction."

Yang shows signs of confusion as to what his company is made to go through. They simply wanted to construct a fast-food outlet and now they have come this far.

But he almost laughs when reminded of the accusation that the smell of frying burgers and fries would distract churchgoers from prayer and worship. "We're not a typical restaurant. We have the appropriate technology and equipment. Nothing that would disturb the neighbors."

How far have they gone? How much has Golden Arches invested so far in that contested site?

"One week *na lang matatapos na 'yan, e*," says Yang wistfully. "A store would cost P25 million, including the building, equipment, furniture, décor."

Church history

The town of Balayan is two hours and 30 minutes drive from Makati, past Tagaytay and parts of Nasugbu. It has a population of about 70,000.

Founded in 1578, it was the first capital of Batangas, from 1591 to 1732. According to Regalado Trota José's history of the ancestral churches of Batangas, the land of Balayan used to also include Nasugbu, Lian, Calatagan, Tuy and Calaca.

When the Augustinians started administering it in 1575, it was only a *visita* (a barrio chapel occasionally served by priests from the town) of Bombon (now Taal). Its spiritual administration changed hands from the Augustinians to the Franciscans, to the Jesuits then to the Recollects, and finally to the diocesans.

An NHI marker installed in 1986 on the church façade details the historical significance of the structure: From the frail material built by the Franciscans in 1579, it was constructed in stone only in 1748. It had been under the administration of the Jesuits under Padre Pedro Chirino. It was handed over to secular priests under the Archdiocese of Manila in 1908, which administration was later transferred to the diocese of Lipa.

The structure is of cut stones, red bricks, decorative tiles, hardwood, gold leaf for the main altarpiece and pulpit. On the dome near the altar is a showy fresco that borders between folk art and kitsch. Through the centuries the stones of the ancient walls have been patched with plaster and cement here and there.

Some desecration

Some of the church's major features are of recent vintage, which by themselves are a kind of desecration. A carport has been annexed to the façade, an ugly protuberance of concrete incised to resemble blocks of ancient stones. There's the equally ugly corrugated-iron covering of the red-brick belfry's phallic top level, which used to be flat before it was destroyed by a series of earthquakes.

To the right, diagonally connected to the church, is a long building painted gray, blue and white. This was originally the rectory now transformed into the Immaculate Conception College, the parochial school run by nuns. In a corner, forming an alley with the school gym on the border of the church atrium, is the controversial structure.

To the left, running diagonal on the border of the church atrium, is a row of low, blue-and-gray, closely built structures that include the present dilapidated rectory, a cooperative, and a restaurant.

At the back of the church looms up the massive structure of the new rectory still under construction. There is so much space around, one would think it's a wasteland out there.

"Our leasing of the land is a way of coping with progress," say Rev. Fr. Ernesto I. Mandanas Jr., parish priest of Balayan for seven years. "For them, the building is the issue. For us, it's our mission. Ours is not on the stones, ours is on the hearts of the people. *Hindi nila talaga makuha, iba siguro ang kanilang* motivations."

Central concern

Father Mandanas recalls that, in 1996, the franchisee of the fast-food chain Jollibee approached church authorities about leasing a site for an outlet. Since the archdiocese of Lipa had no need for the revenues, Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales, chief administrator of ecclesiastical properties, said no. So Jollibee settled for a site across the street, on a rotunda.

A few years later, a home for aged priests, St. Joseph Seniorate, was put up in Lipa. The archbishop kept worrying where to get funds to maintain the retired priests, their food, medicines, housing, personnel. In 2000, McDonald's came in, and this was just what the archbishop needed.

Some 400 sq m of church property was leased to McDonald's for P72,000 a month, for 10 years. After the building permit was secured from the Office of the Mayor, construction started on Oct. 29, 2001.

The contract is renewable for another 10 years. After that, the building becomes church property, and the archdiocese has the option to renew the contract or not, or lease the building to someone else.

"Of course, we're all concerned about the progress of our mission," Father Mandanas continues passionately, answering those who have accused him of betraying his religion, dignity and cultural heritage for money. "Putting McDo there is part of our mission to develop the faith. Because 50 percent of the proceeds will go to the maintenance of the aged priests, the other 50 percent to the education of children in the parish, for their instructional materials and the hiring of teachers. We have to meet all these needs. It's our issue, it's our central concern, it's very important to us."

No comparison

The new structure has been designed to look like a Spanish-style mansion with an *azotea*, whitewashed, with red Spanish-tile roofing. "After 20 years, that nice building can be ours," the priest smiles.

Reminded of the CDOs from the DENR, Father Mandanas says municipal officials have been complaining that they have been bypassed, as the construction is within their jurisdiction. "They're saying, Why should the DENR complain? We are the ones to give the permit!"

He points out the difference between the Balayan case and that of Carcar, Cebu, which some quarters have been comparing. The Cebu town has several of its heritage structures being threatened by the construction of a highway, while no such structure in Balayan is being demolished, but, in fact, a Spanish-type building has been constructed.

"This is not Taal," the priest says, referring to the Batangas town famous for its heritage structures. "There are only very few old houses here, and they're not of nineteenth century vintage, only early twentieth century. In fact, this is the only building around the church that really blends with it. There's a restaurant 17 m away from the church but they haven't made an issue out of it. While McDonald's is 45 m away at its nearest point, 60 m away at its farthest, or an average of 55 m."

On the smell of fries and burgers luring churchgoers from spiritual thoughts, Father Mandanas seems exasperated. "We would be the first ones to be concerned for the parishioners. Look, the kitchen of the nuns *nasa tabi lang ng* altar, *wala namang amoy. Siguro pagkain ng mga madre kokonti.*"

Contentious point

A rally against McDonald's had been planned, but reportedly only six came, so it didn't push through. Of the oppositionists during a few meetings of townspeople and officials, the most vociferous was reportedly a woman associated with the franchisee of another fast-food chain.

The point of contention is actually rooted in the positioning of the McDonald's structure. Seen from one angle, from the busy rotunda, it covers a side view of the church. From the opposite angle, from the church atrium and the school ground, it covers a fast-food joint across the street.

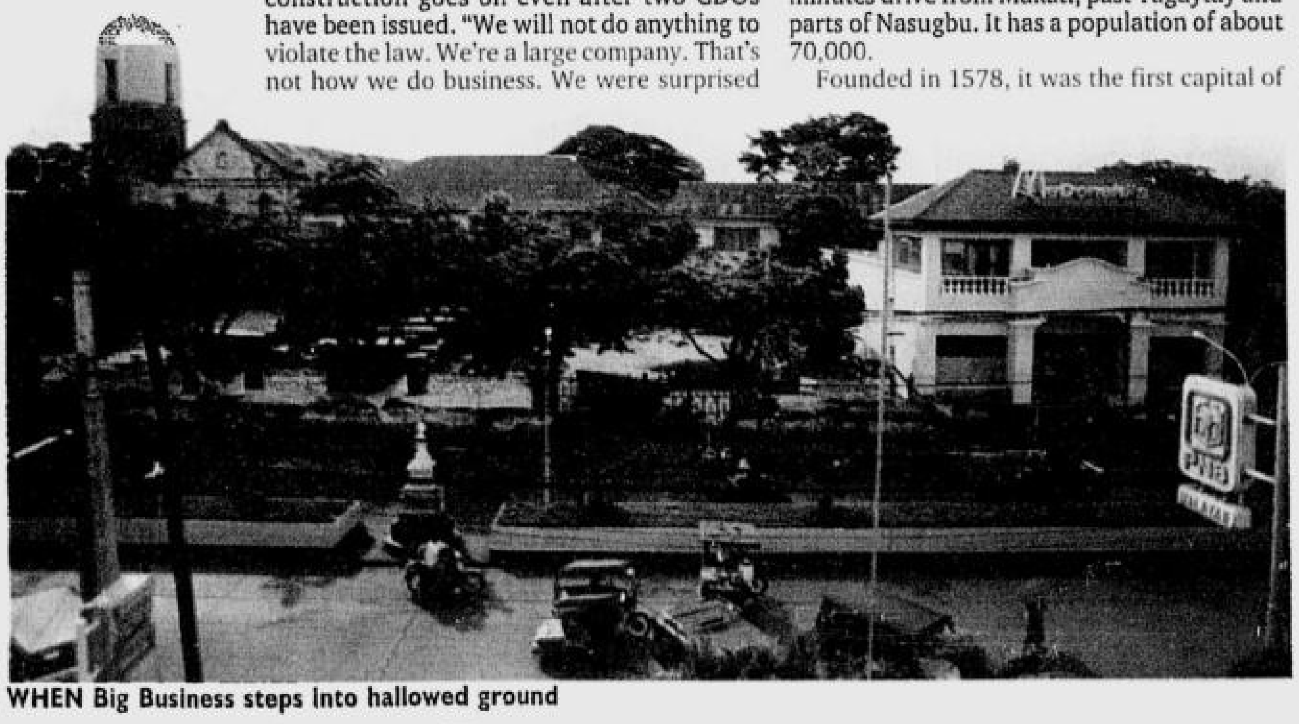
"It's not really a historical or cultural issue," says Father Mandanas. "Underneath lies a business rivalry. And only the Church is getting hurt."

He dismisses a boycott campaign by telling how kids with birthdays in June are excited over the opening of McDonald's in Balayan, hoping to celebrate their birthdays in the new outlet. The next outlet is an hour's drive away in Tagaytay, Cavite.

But we can't see an end to this fractious issue just yet. Last Thursday, May 30, the NHI board reconvened to decide whether to ask DENR to reverse the CDO or not. That week, the controversy became international, as it earned a brief reportage in Newsweek.

The parish priest of Balayan thinks positive, however. He beams as he expresses his hope that the McDonald's outlet will open before the school year rolls in.

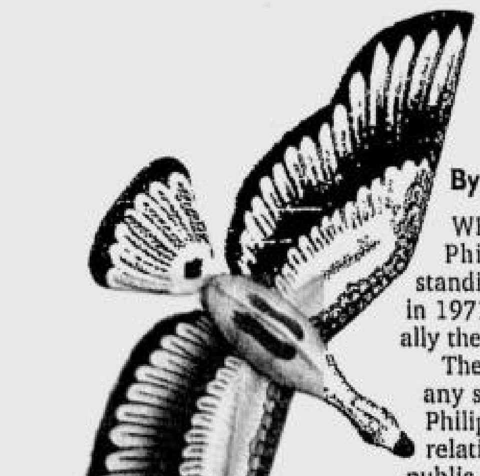
Or, at least, before the town fiesta on June 24, in celebration of their patron San Juan, when tourists and townsfolk flock in the streets to view or participate in the *parada ng mga lechon*.



WHEN Big Business steps into hallowed ground

Kites of passage

Kite show celebrates RP-China friendship



By Linda Bolido

WHEN the Association for Philippines-China Understanding (Apcu) was organized in 1971, understanding was really the operative word.

The Cold War did not show any signs of thawing and the Philippines had no diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China. Worse, steeped in American propaganda on the evils of communism and the threat posed by that huge country behind the "bamboo curtain," Filipinos were suspicious, even downright fearful, of their neighbor, the world's most populous nation.

In May 1970, the first tentative step toward reestablishing relations between the countries, which have had extensive interactions even before the Spaniards came to the Philippines, began with the visit to China of a 25-member delegation representing the Philippine Chamber of Commerce. The group was followed by an all-woman group.

Apcu was born a year after the visits. Alejandro Roces became the first chair of the board, which included, among others, Charito Planas, who was in both delegations, Gemma Cruz Araneta, scriptwriter Ricky Lee and current chair Lorenzo Ku.

The declaration of martial law prompted the group to keep a low profile for a while, but in 1973, some members saw the need to revitalize the organization. Former Ambassador and University of the Philippines president Salvador P. Lopez became chair. Between 1978-79, Gloria Macapagal Arroyo served as Apcu board secretary.

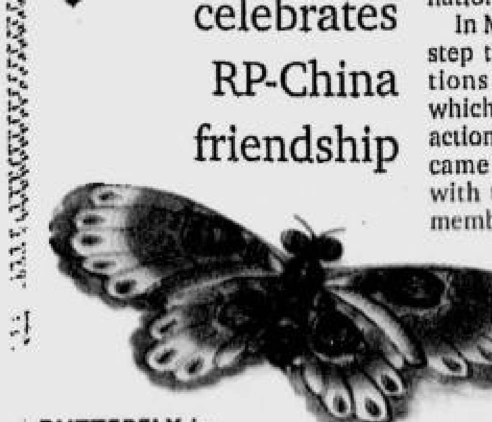
More than three decades after its founding, Apcu remains alive and well and espouses not just closer understanding between the two countries but also more active cultural, educational and trade exchanges and joint activities. Giving a much-needed boost to Apcu's efforts is President Arroyo's proclamation setting aside June 9 every year for the observance of Philippines-China Friendship Day.

To celebrate both the new annual event and the thirty-first year of Apcu, the association, through the initiative of its president Lynn R. S. Sunico, is presenting an exhibit of Chinese kites and paper cuts at the lobby of the National Library. To be formally inaugurated at 6 p.m. on June 6, the exhibit will be open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. daily until June 11.

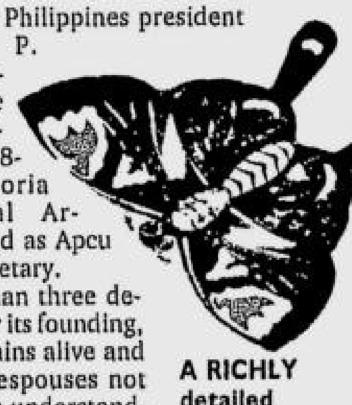
The choice of kites for the exhibit seems quite appropriate since, just like Apcu, the popular plaything has also evolved since it was first introduced at least two millennia ago. Al-though the first kites, made of wood, were really meant as toys, kites were also used for military purposes--to scatter propaganda materials, for sending messages, and even carry men up in the air if they were big enough. After paper was invented, it became the material of choice for the flying toys.

The National Library exhibit will feature some 50 kites collected by stylist Rachy Cuna during his trips to China. The paper cuts, according to Sunico, were collected by Apcu. Although the paper cuts have been shown before in different museums, popular demand prompted Apcu to include them again in this year's exhibit.

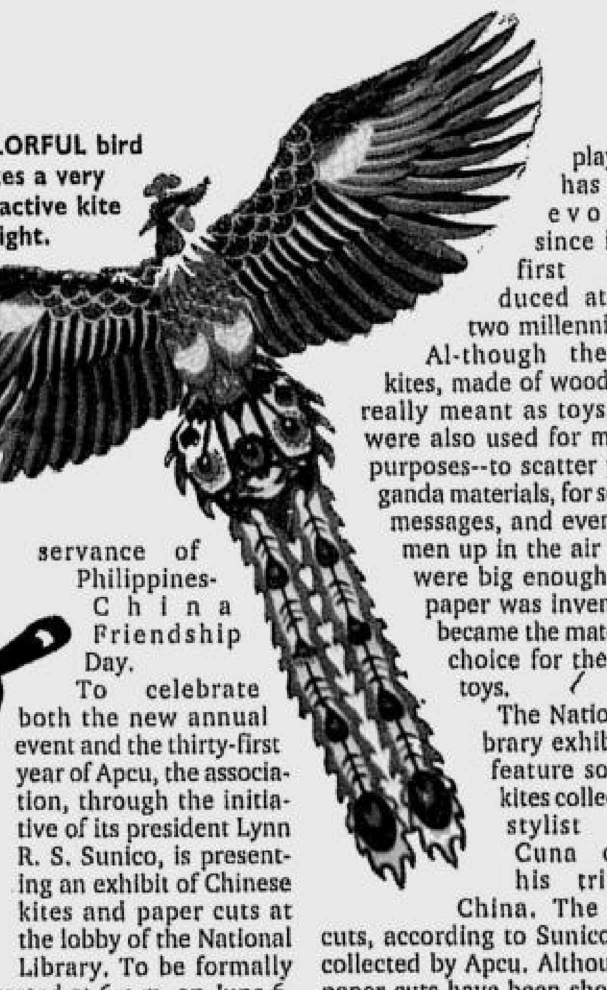
Apcu's 2000-2002 board of directors is composed of Ku, chair; Cuna, vice chair for external affairs; Santos In Hong Giap, vice chair for internal affairs; Sunico, president; Henry Tong, first vice president; Jesus Cham, second vice president; Andrea Edang, executive director; Nina, Mata, secretary; Flor Santiago, treasurer; Sy Ang Lok, business manager; Letty Timbol, secretary; and Willie Tee, Jose Ting, Marison Baldovino, and Al Perez, directors. Josie Joya Baldovino, immediate past president, is adviser.



BUTTERFLY in mostly pastel shades



A RICHLY detailed butterfly kite



COLORFUL bird makes a very attractive kite in flight.

LYNN Sunico shows off a kite that will be on exhibit at the National Library starting June 6.

Severino at Pintô, Tence Ruiz at The Drawing Room, Al Quinn at Shangri-La Plaza, Javier at West Gallery

VISUAL ARTS

AFTER 30 years of consistent art-making, Lino Severino, a former pilot-turned-professional painter, will exhibit a selection of his works in "Severino Retrospective: 1972-2002" at the Pintô Art Gallery in Antipolo City, June 16-July 14. The exhibit will include recent large-scale Vanishing Scenes to be shown at the Gallery I and at the House. Pintô Gallery II shall showcase the artist's "Vanishing Variations" series, while his watercolors will be displayed at the annex exhibition space, Bahay Silangan Gallery. Call Pintô Art Gallery at 697-1015.

JOSÉ Tence Ruiz presents "Dekormakina," a metaphor for the post-9/11 epoch: irradiated medieval angels, their energies welded to mechanized wings; towers morphing from Moorish to Gothic; and *señoritas* in ternos. The wall works are mostly acrylic on paper. The exhibit is open June 8-26. The Drawing Room is on the G/F, Metrostar Building, 1007 Metropolitan Ave., Makati City. Call 897-6990/7877.

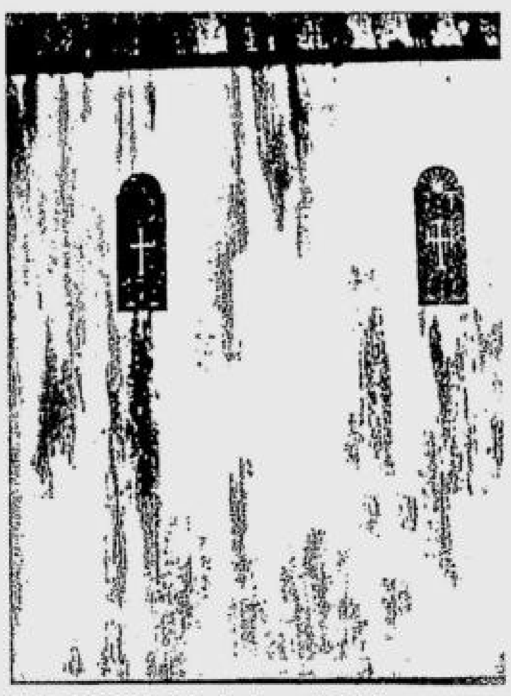
TV DIRECTOR Al Quinn presents "Quinntessential Flow" at Living in Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Mandaluyong City, for the month of June. The exhibit features portable water fountains using driftwood and seashells. This marks the first time that an exhibit of this type and magnitude is unveiled. Aside from being works of art, the fountains are ideal home ornaments that can be center or conversation pieces.

GERALDINE Javier presents "Red on Her Skirt" at the West Gallery (3/L, Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati) on June 6-18. The series is an adult take on child role-playing. Children use toys as tools to act out their fantasies about everyday adult life. It's a make-believe world where life is uncomplicated, defined simply by roles. Call 752-7028 to 29.

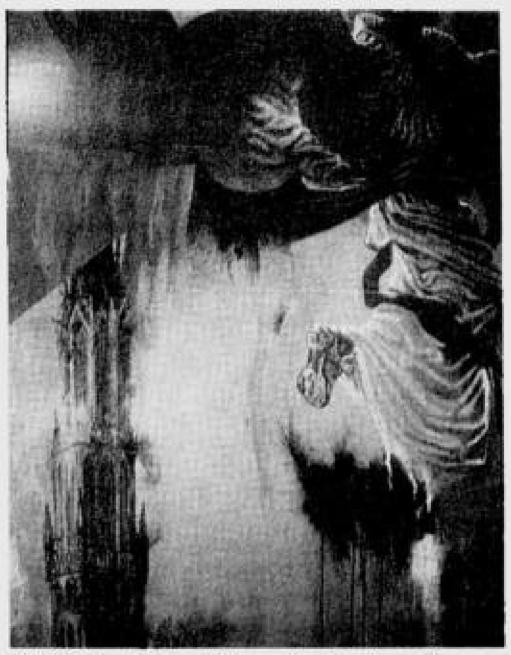
RICKY Montilla will exhibit his artworks at Seattle Center, House 3, Mural Amphitheater in Washington, on June 7-9. He is the guest artist of Pagdiriwang 2002, an art, historical and cultural festival to celebrate the anniversary of Philippine Independence. The exhibit is sponsored by the Filipino Cultural Heritage Society of Washington. Montilla presents his works in oil on canvas with subjects such as Filipino scenes, florals, lilies and ducks.

MICHELLE Van Eimeren-Alcasid and Monique Ignacio have invited well-known and respected ceramic artists Paul Davis and Jacqueline Clayton to conduct a ceramic workshop, June 3-8. Davis will be teaching throwing or pottery on the wheel. Clayton will teach sculptural techniques. The workshop is an intensive program designed for those with previous experience to further enhance their skills. Call (0920)243-1000 or 634-6941. The workshop will culminate in a ceramics exhibit to be held at the Artspace, 3/L Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati City, June 8-20.

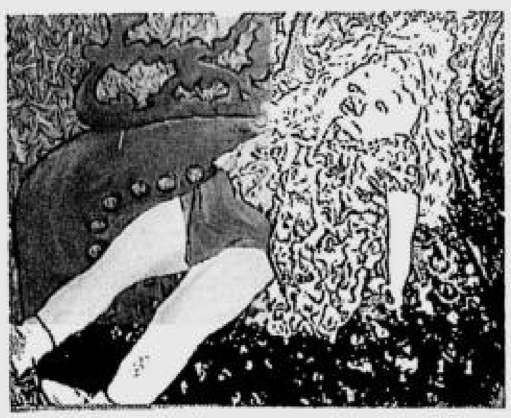
ANTING-ANTING, a group of accomplished and emerging artists from Cavite, will exhibit mixed-media works at the Cultural Center of the Philippines' Bulwagang Juan Luna (Main Gallery) June 13-July 31. Participating artists include Wilfredo Alicdan, José Austria, Lawrence Borsoto, Alfredo Esquillo Jr., Emmanuel Garibay, Magdiwang Jardiniano, Irma Lacorte, Nikulas Lebajo, Joseph Lofranco, Elaine Lopez, Rosario Sanchez, Chriseo Sipat, Christian Tamondong and Clairelyn Uy. The artists interpret in their own styles the *anting-anting* not as an inert object, but as a medium.
Call 832-3702 or 832-1125 locals 1504 and 1505.



"VANISHING Variations #334," acrylic on canvas, by Lino Severino at Pinto



"ANG Paglalahad," acrylic, by Jose Tence Ruiz at Drawing Room



"AND Then," oil on canvas, by Geraldine Javier at West-Glorietta

DON Artamas presents his recent collection of monoprints in "One on One" at the Donada Art Gallery (2618 G/F R. L. Building, corner Donada St. and P. Ocampo St., Malate, Manila). Artist Raul Isidro, president of the Philippine Association of Printmakers, and Romeo S. Sy, president of Multicare Pharmaceuticals Philippines Inc., will open the exhibit at 6 p.m., June 8. The show will run until July 8. Call 400-0731 or 522-1977.

FOR THE 104th anniversary of Philippine Independence, Bayview Park Hotel, Manila, at the corner of Roxas Blvd. and United Nations Ave., presents a one-man painting exhibit "The Two Fishermen" by positivism exponent and painter E. R. Tagle, 6 p.m., on June 5. The exhibit is the artist's version of the modern *bayanihan*.

TAGLE'S Positivism Art Workshop is still accepting participants—children and adults who want to learn the basics and advanced drawing and painting—until June 14. Morning classes will be held for children aged 3-12 years old while those 13 years old and above will have classes in the afternoon. Evening classes will be conducted for professionals on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. The workshops are at The Gallery, Enterprise Plaza, 1429 Pablo Ocampo Ave., (formerly Vito Cruz Extension), Makati City. Call 899-6358 or (0917) 972-6223.

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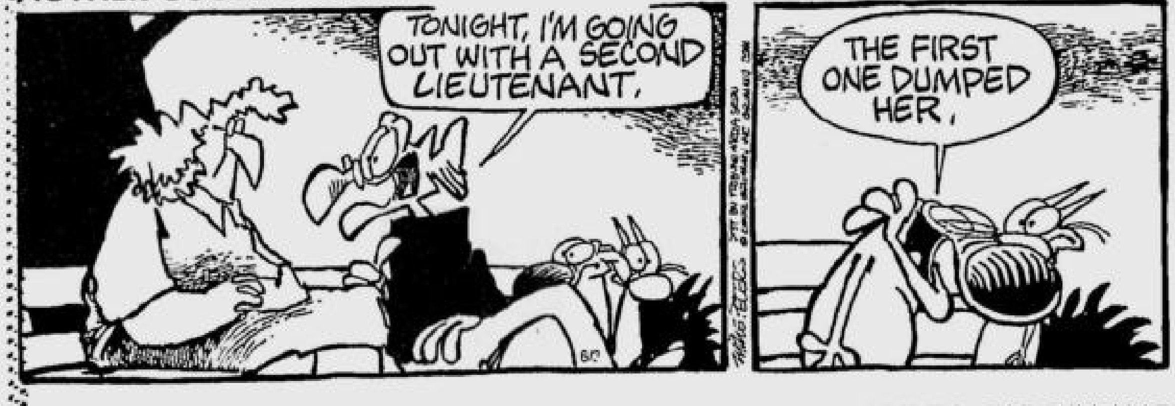
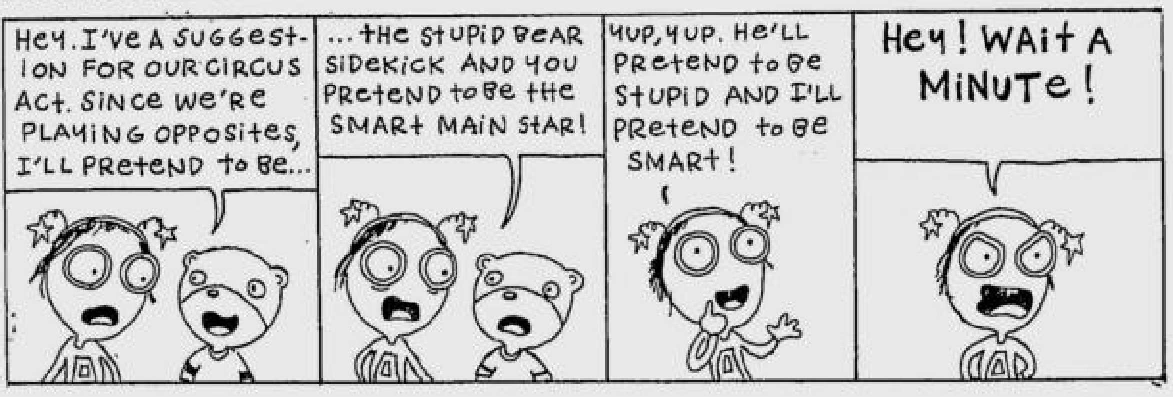
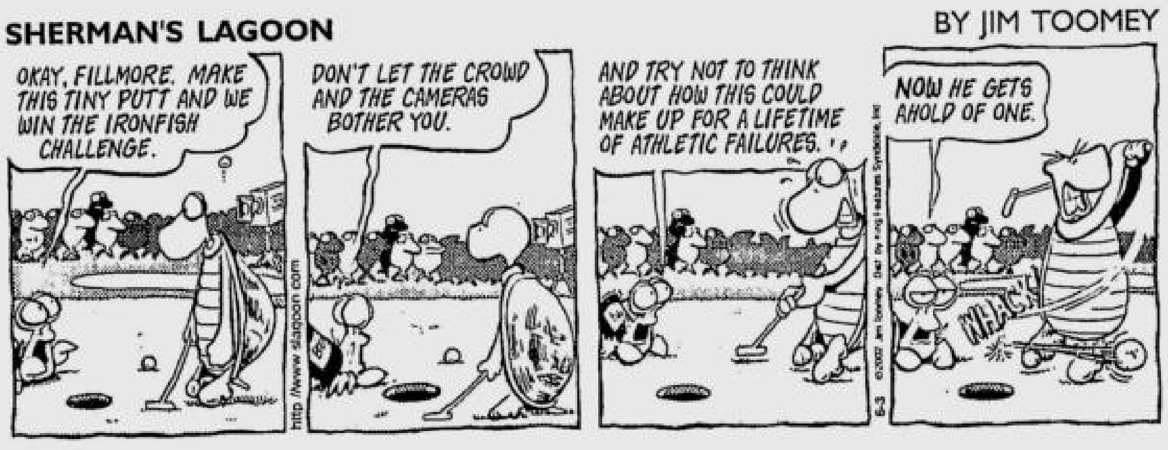
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM BY MIKE PETERS


TONIGHT, I'M GOING OUT WITH A SECOND LIEUTENANT.
THE FIRST ONE DUMPED HER.

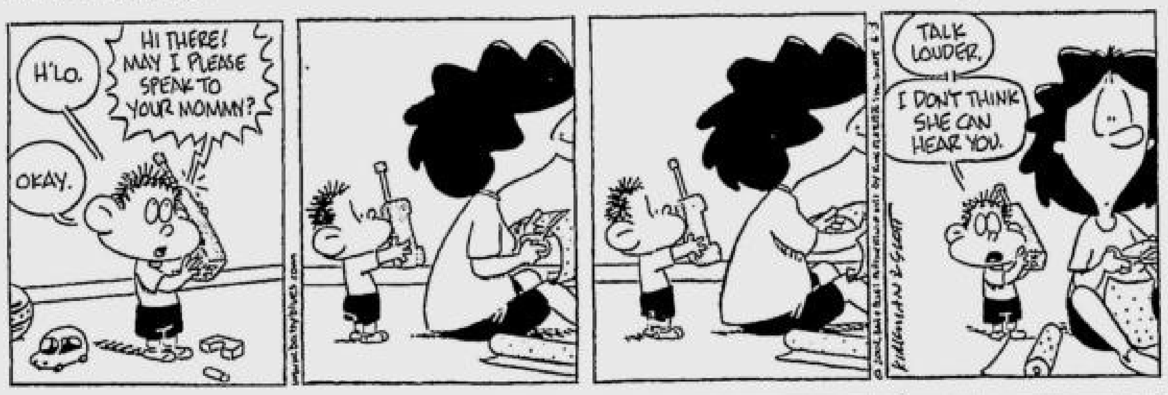
ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Hey. I've A suggestion FOR OUR CIRCUS Act. Since we're PLAYING OPPOSITES, I'LL Pretend to Be...
...the stupid bear sidekick AND you Pretend to Be the SMART MAIN STAR!
Yup, yup. He'll Pretend to Be stupid AND I'll pretend to Be SMART!
Hey! WAIT A MINUTE!

SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY


OKAY, FILLMORE. MAKE THIS TINY PUTT AND WE WIN THE IRONFISH CHALLENGE.
DON'T LET THE CROWD AND THE CAMERAS BOTHER YOU.
AND TRY NOT TO THINK ABOUT HOW THIS COULD MAKE UP FOR A LIFETIME OF ATHLETIC FAILURES.
NOW HE GETS AHOLD OF ONE.
WHACK!
http://www.slagoon.com

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


H'LO.
HI THERE! MAY I PLEASE SPEAK TO YOUR MOMMY?
OKAY.
TALK LOUDER.
I DON'T THINK SHE CAN HEAR YOU.

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Dan Hill, Scott Valentine, Tony Curtis, Curtis Mayfield

Happy Birthday: Your financial state will be erratic this year. This is not the time to deal with contracts or legal matters. You can expect to have problems with alimony, insurance, taxes and any other red tape issues. Your health will suffer if you are stressed from poor financial choices. It is time to reevaluate and make changes. Your numbers are 14, 18, 26, 29, 32, 41

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You may want to double-check your private papers today. You may be surprised to find out exactly what you're worth and how you can improve your situation.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You will benefit from more involvement with groups or organizations. The people you meet will welcome your ideas and give you some great input as to how to accomplish your goals.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Do not spend on luxury items today. Focus on your work and making money. Someone you work with may try to stand in your way but he or she won't succeed.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Do something social that will help you develop your inner self and expand on your creative ideas. Events that include children will turn out to be entertaining and favorable.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You should be concentrating on your financial position today. Take a look at your investments and decide whether to sell or to hold on to what you have. Ask for advice from someone who is well informed.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You will attract attention and potential partners today if you get out and campaign for something you feel strongly about. Your dedication will be admired.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Your unique ideas will bring you the success you're looking for at work. You should be able to gain support if you are precise and articulate in your presentation.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Focus on your creative endeavors and you will do some of your best work. You will feel the need to experience new things and new places. Don't sit idle.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't try to make changes to your personal life if you meet with opposition. Put your efforts into transforming your residence. Let everyone have their say today. Be observant and listen.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Get out with friends or plan a pleasure trip. Communications will run smoothly today so clear the air and let others know how you feel and what your intentions are.

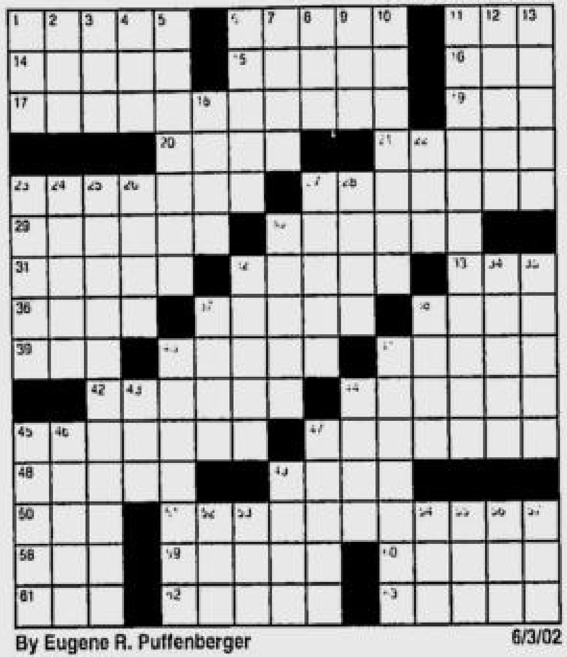
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You will be sitting in an awkward position if you are too open about the way you see things. Don't trust friends with your secrets today. You are disciplined enough to carry out your intentions on the sly.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You will be up and down today, especially if things don't go your way. Focus on learning, creating and doing things of a social or physical nature. Use your hands and you will discover how capable you really are.

Birthday Baby: You will have a tremendous thirst for knowledge and adventure. You will want to see, hear and experience all, and then some. Versatile, changeable and inquisitive, you will never want to miss anything that's going on.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Eugene R. Puffenberger
Houston, TX

6/3/02

ACROSS
1 Native-born Israeli
6 Grown-up
11 Scrooge expletive
14 Narcotic from poppies
15 Window elements
16 Baseball stat
17 Sharon's wireless
19 Rower's need
20 Amounting to nothing
21 Slack
23 Pilchard
27 Adhesive label
29 Warns
30 Readers' decks
31 The present time
32 French peasant dance
33 Bikini top
36 __ 500
37 Went a few rounds
38 Feathery scarves
39 Napoleon's marshal
40 City in Provence
41 Diner seating choice
42 Greens courses
44 Biting midge
45 Waltzing lady
47 Ruling house of Great Britain
48 Asserts
49 Barak of Israel
50 Top
51 Torquato's lanat
58 Wee bit
59 Smith and West
60 Mistake
61 Some
62 Actress Adoree
63 Purview

DOWN
1 Mayday!
2 Likely
3 Short life story
4 Operate
5 Creature comfort
6 Newton's fruit
7 Actress Arlene
8 One in Toledo
9 Dykstra or Deighton
10 "Murder in the Cathedral" dramatist
11 Garth's library
12 Degrade
13 Employment source
18 Catches rays
22 Sept. follower
23 Glossy fabric
24 Single-handedly
25 Helen's cuddly bear
26 Sturdy cart
27 Rescues
28 Walked (on)
30 Levies
32 Meir of Israel
34 Proportional relationship
35 Peter of Peter & Gordon
37 Hall or Pitt
38 Fleming's spy
40 Nothing but headliners
41 Software lots
43 Broadcast
44 Papal name
45 Valletta's land
46 Of birds
47 "__ Life Is It, Anyway?"
49 Salinger girl
52 Gator tail?
53 Diego or Jose
54 Javelin's path
55 Full-house sign
56 Drench
57 Mine find

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

A	D	A	M	S	R	I	B	■	S	L	E	W	E	D
S	E	M	I	T	O	N	E	■	C	A	S	I	N	O
P	L	A	T	E	L	E	T	■	R	I	A	L	T	O
H	A	T	■	A	L	P	■	C	O	D	■	L	I	D
O	W	E	■	M	E	T	C	A	L	F	■	I	R	A
D	A	U	B	E	R	■	U	N	L	O	O	S	E	D
E	R	R	O	R	■	O	R	D	E	R	S	■	■	■
L	E	S	S	■	A	C	R	I	D	■	L	A	R	D
■	■	■	S	A	L	T	E	D	■	R	I	C	E	R
A	S	S	Y	R	I	A	N	■	S	E	N	E	C	A
L	O	O	■	M	E	N	T	I	O	N	■	R	O	B
T	I	N	■	O	N	E	■	C	U	D	■	B	I	N
A	R	A	B	I	A	■	A	I	R	E	D	A	L	E
R	E	T	O	R	T	■	S	E	C	R	E	T	E	S
S	E	A	B	E	E	■	P	R	E	S	S	E	R	S

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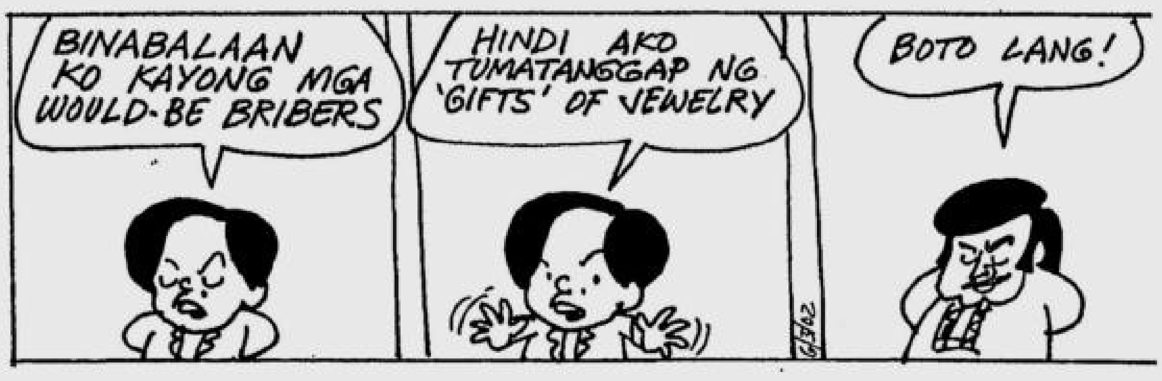
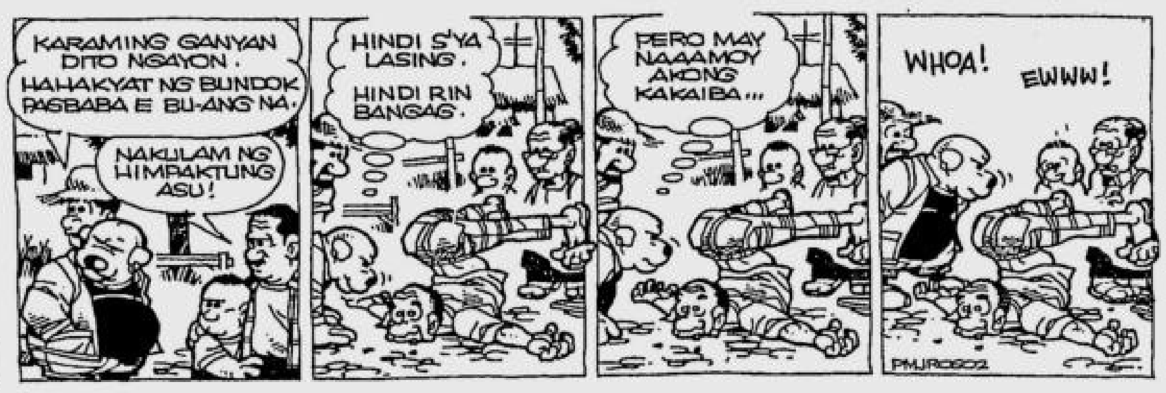
6/3/02

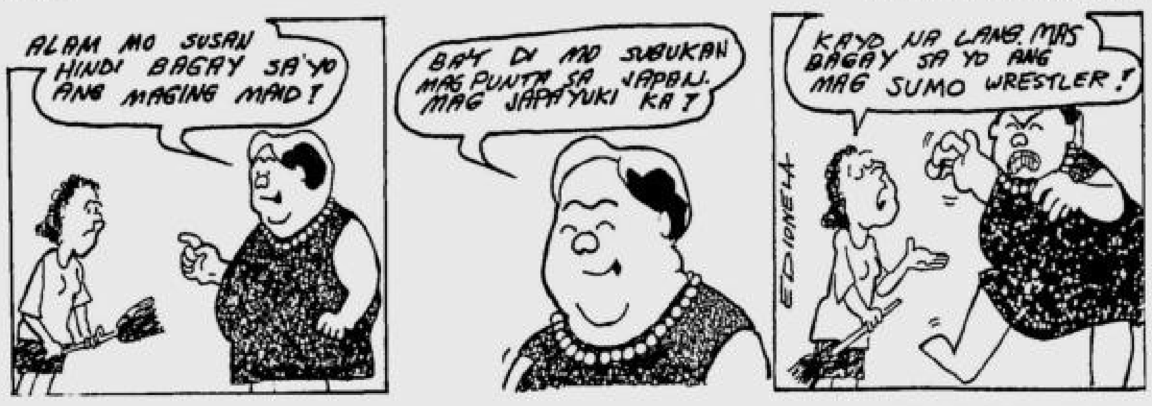
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


BINABALAAN KO KAYONG MGA WOULD-BE BRIBERS
HINDI AKO TUMATANGGAP NG 'GIFTS' OF JEWELRY
BOTO LANG!

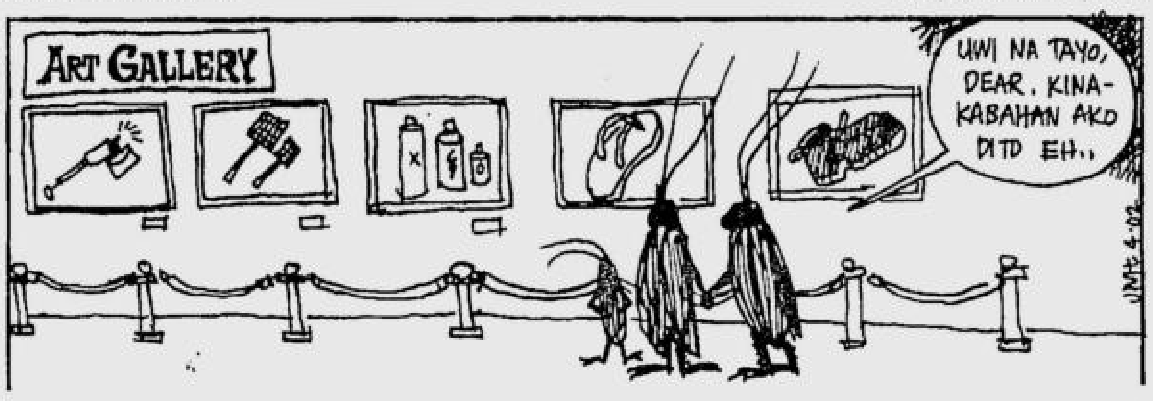
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


KARAMING GANYAN DITO NGAYON. HAHAKYAT NG BUNDOK PAGBABA E BU-ANG NA.
NAKULAM NG HIMPAKTUNG ASU!
HINDI S'YA LASING.
HINDI RIN BANGAG.
PERO MAY NAAAMOY AKONG KAKAIBA...
WHOA!
EWWW!
PMJR0602

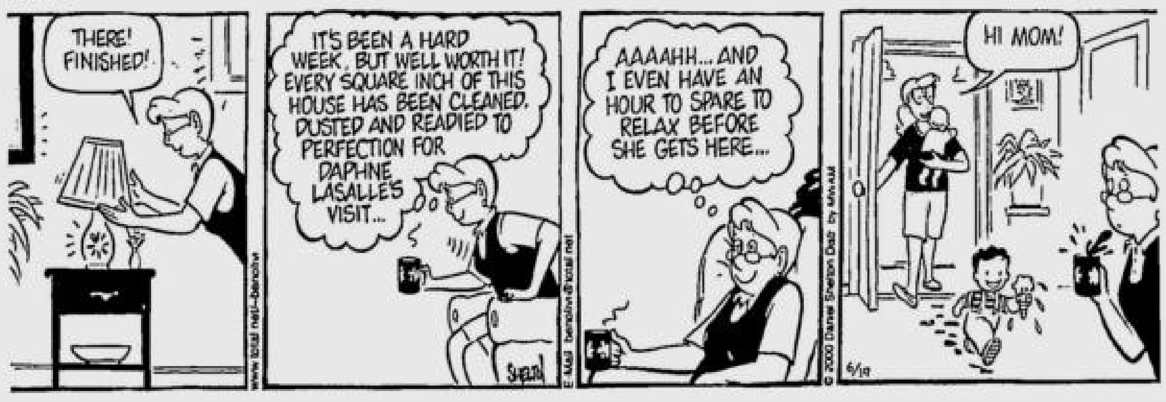
SIMO BY EDGAR DIONELA


ALAM MO SUSAN HINDI BAGAY SA'YO ANG MAGING MAID!
BAKIT DI MO SUBUKAN MAG PUNTA SA JAPAN. MAG JAPAYUKI KA ?
KAYO NA LANG. MAS BAGAY SA YO ANG MAG SUMO WRESTLER!
EDIONELA

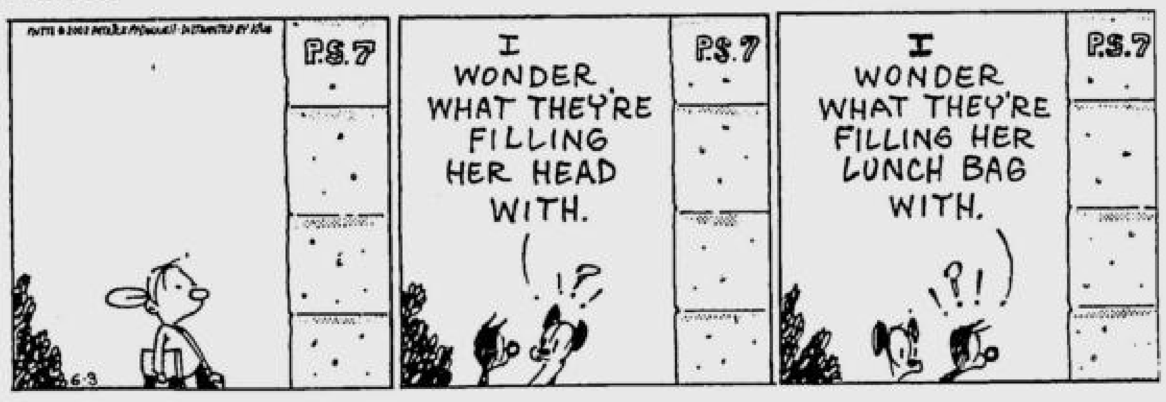
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


ART GALLERY
UWI NA TAYO, DEAR. KINAKABAHAN AKO DITO EH..

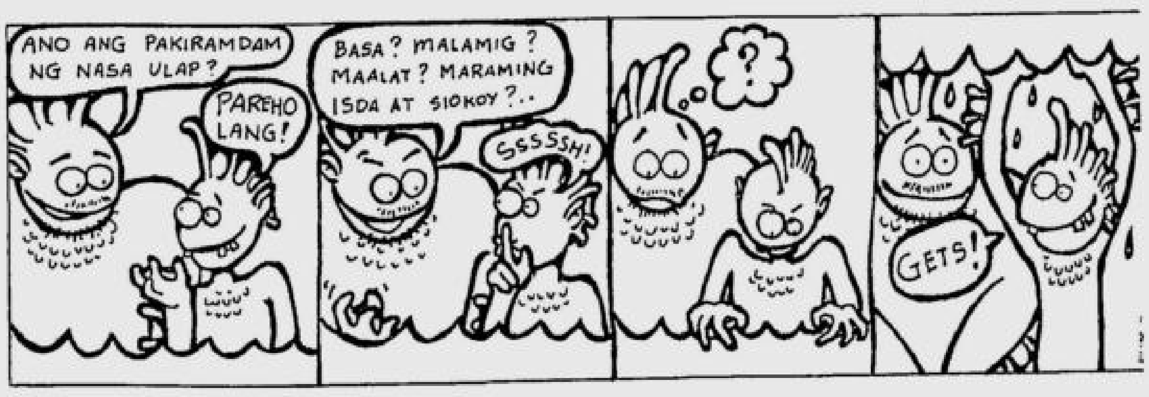
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


THERE! FINISHED!
IT'S BEEN A HARD WEEK, BUT WELL WORTH IT! EVERY SQUARE INCH OF THIS HOUSE HAS BEEN CLEANED, DUSTED AND READIED TO PERFECTION FOR DAPHNE LASALLE'S VISIT...
AAAAHH... AND I EVEN HAVE AN HOUR TO SPARE TO RELAX BEFORE SHE GETS HERE...
HI MOM!

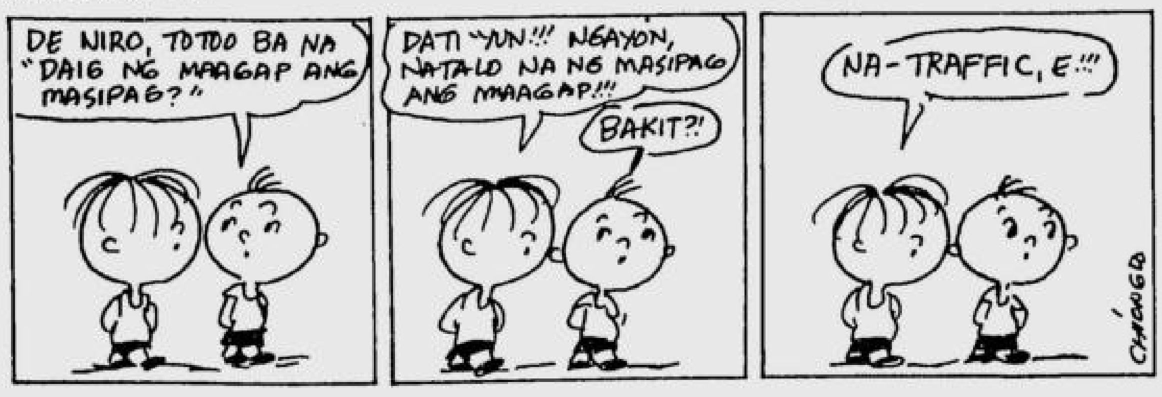
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


P.S.7
I WONDER WHAT THEY'RE FILLING HER HEAD WITH.
P.S.7
I WONDER WHAT THEY'RE FILLING HER LUNCH BAG WITH.
P.S.7

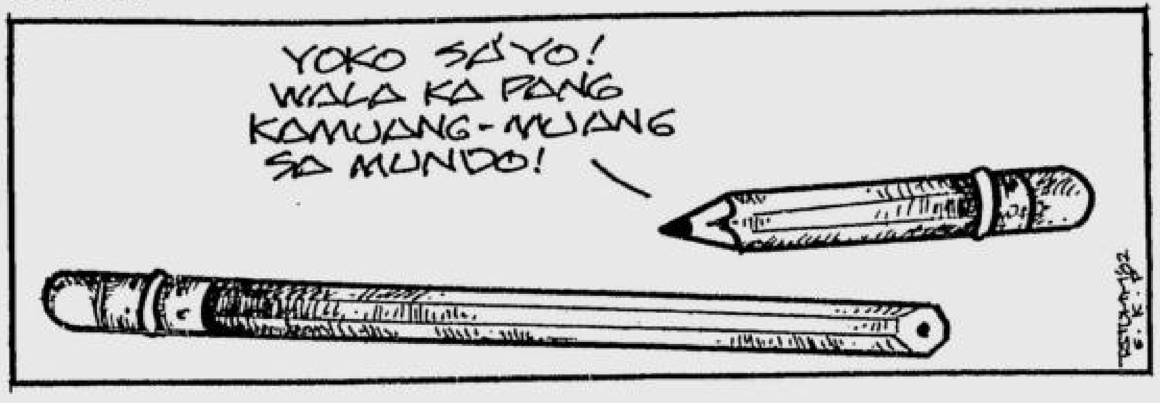
CHICHOY CHOKOY BY IKOY RICIO


ANO ANG PAKIRAMDAM NG NASA ULAP?
PAREHO LANG!
BASA? MALAMIG? MAALAT? MARAMING ISDA AT SIOKOY?..
SSSSSH!
?
GETS!

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

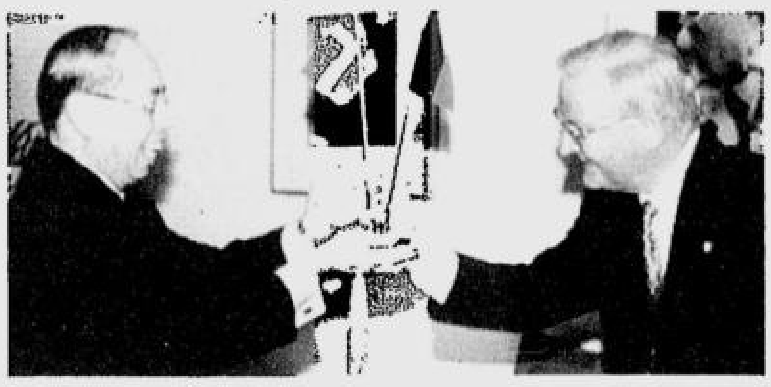

DE NIRO, TOTOO BA NA "DAIG NG MAAGAP ANG MASIPAG?"
DATI 'YUN!!! NGAYON, NATALO NA NG MASIPAG ANG MAAGAP!!!
BAKIT?!
NA-TRAFFIC, E!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


YOKO SA'YO! WALA KA PANG KAMUANG-MUANG SA MUNDO!

LUISA Perez Rubio, Ambassador Peter Rosting, Isabel Wilson, Ricardo Romulo, Birgitta Rosting, Roberto Romulo, Billy Luz

US Ambassador Francis J. Ricciardone, US Embassy assistant cultural affairs officer Molly Stephenson and Cora Alvina of the National Museum



RICARDO Romulo accepting Ambassador Rosting's gift of the flags of the Philippines and Denmark.

BETH Day Romulo, Josie Trinidad Lichauco

NORWEGIAN Ambassador Paul Moe

Danish 'despedida' and a photojournalist's Southeast Asian sojourn

DIPLOMATIC SWIRL

By Amiga

IT HAS BEEN a summer of farewells, the latest being the despedida dinner for Danish Ambassador **Peter Rosting** and his charming **Birgitta**, hosted by good friends Belgian Ambassador **Arnold** and **Sylvia Van Remoortele** at their residence. With many loyal friends from both the diplomatic corps such as Italian Ambassador **Umberto** and **Clara Colesanti**, Portuguese Ambassador **Joao** and **Ulrika Da Silva**, Mexican Ambassador **Enrique** and **Mariana Hubbard**, Nigerian Ambassador **Chief Ray O.O. Inije** and representatives of the local community like **Tony** and **Abla Assad**, **Mita** and **Tony Rufino**, **Tessie** and **Jun Campilio** in attendance, there were not a few misty eyes as both ambassadors raised their glasses in a toast and response.

Bags packed, silver and plates boxed and crated, the Rostings moved to Oakwood Premier where the night before their scheduled departure a reception was given to introduce lawyer **Ricardo Romulo** as Denmark's new honorary general consul in the Philippines. Romulo presented Ambassador Rosting with a silver P500 peso commemorative coin cast in London in the presence of Norwegian Ambassador **Paul Moe**, good friend **Maria Luisa Perez Rubio, Beth Day Romulo**, former Ambassadors to Spain **Juan Rocha** and **Isabel Wilson, Roberto Romulo**, soon-to-be UN Ambassador **Josie Trinidad Lichauco, Ramon Ilusorio** and banker **Ramon Sy**.

The buzz among the ladies who lunch and no doubt among a number of men too, is the alleged acceptance of President Arroyo of the offer of Emilio Yap of the Manila Hotel offer to cater the food at her son's wedding. The $64 question: What happens to the millions he owes GSIS?

* * *

Dr. Michael Anderson, the US Embassy counsellor for public affairs, welcomed multiawarded photojournalist Steven Raymer to Manila with a reception at his residence. Raymer's latest book, "Living Faith: Inside the Muslim World of Southeast Asia," contains a timely commentary on Islam in this part of the world. After 10 trips to the region, the author is certainly more knowledgeable about the situation than a lot of us. You can read a review of the book on www.bn.com, the Barnes & Noble web page.

US Ambassador **Francis Ricciardone** was there and assured us that the super bright Dr. Ricciardone (she has a PH.D in molecular biology; the only person I can think of in the same wave length would be Dr. **Su Yumian**, wife of Singapore Ambassador **Jackie Foo**, with a doctorate in molecular physics!) will certainly lecture or do consultancy work. The National Historical Institute's new chairman, **Ambeth Ocampo,** promises that his agency will be publishing books again and National Museum Director **Cora Alvina** hopes to see the new gallery of art in the main building ready before the end of the year. As for the state of culture in the country...well, never mind *na*.

US Embassy press attache Karen Kelley, Romy Gacad, AFP chief photographer, and Erik de Castro, Reuters chief photographer

AMBASSADOR Juan Rocha, Luisa Perez Rubio, Ambassador Rosting

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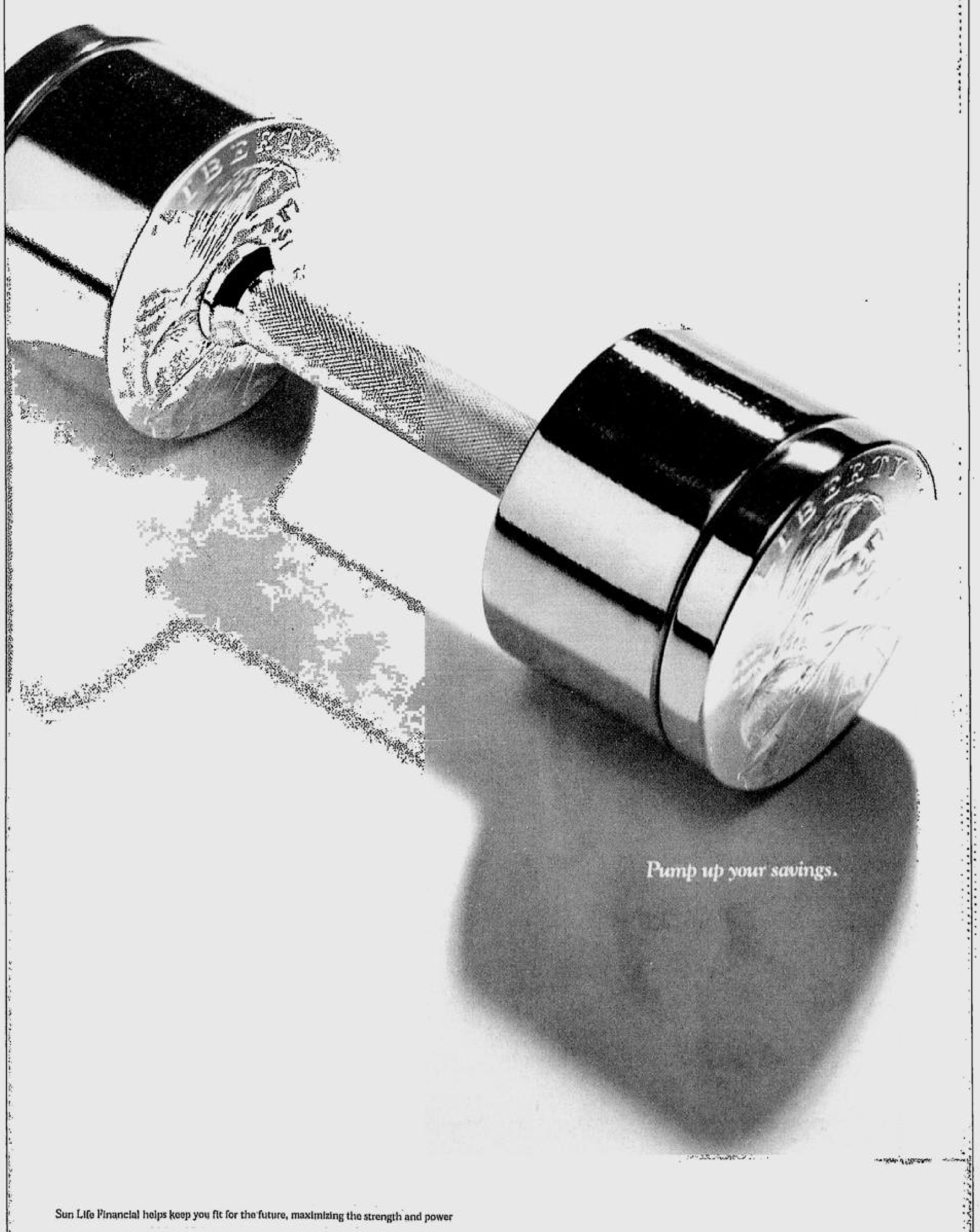

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- The labels should at least be 90% intact or complete. Only labels with authenticated security codes will be honored.
- There will be two preliminary draws and a grand draw.

Deadline for submission of entries as follows:
1st preliminary draw - April 27, 2002; 2nd preliminary draw - May 25, 2002; Grand draw - June 30, 2002.
Draw dates as follows: 1st preliminary - May 04, 2002; 2nd preliminary - June 01, 2002; Grand draw - July 06, 2002.

- All draws will be held live in Magandang Tanghali Bayan (MTB), ABS CBN in the presence of a BFAD representative.

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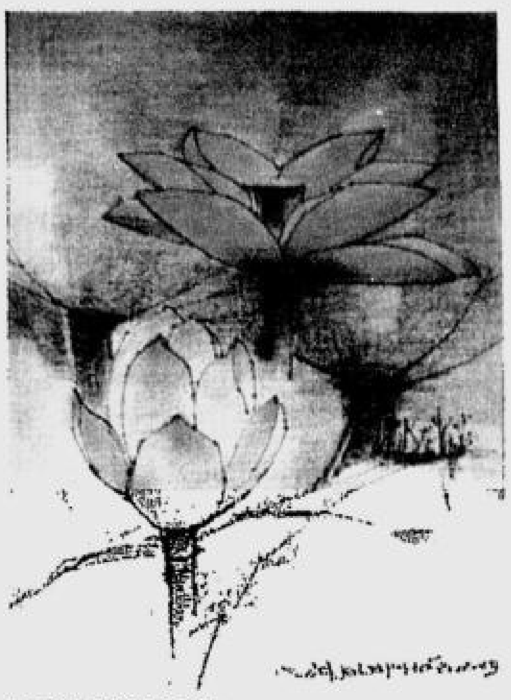
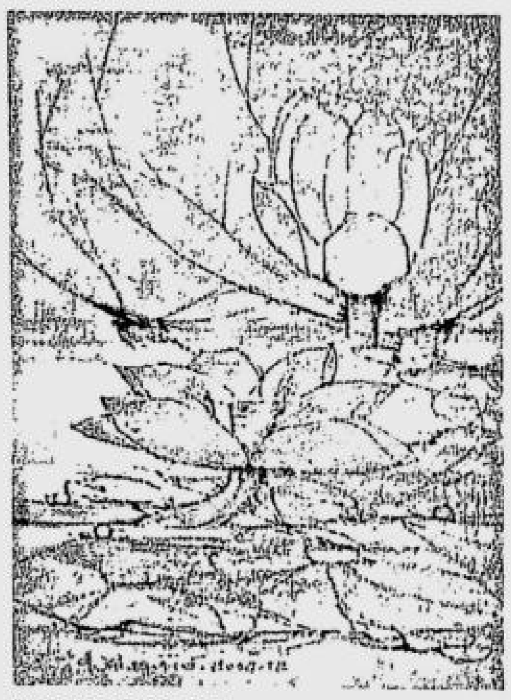
DRAW	PRIZES	AREA OF WINNING ENTRY
1ST Preliminary Draw	(4) Audio-Video Entertainment Showcase	(1) GMA, (1) Luzon, (1) Visayas, (1) Mindanao
	(4) Computer Showcase	(1) GMA, (1) Luzon, (1) Visayas, (1) Mindanao
2ND Preliminary Draw	(4) Living Room Showcase	(1) GMA, (1) Luzon, (1) Visayas, (1) Mindanao
	(4) Kitchen Showcase	(1) GMA, (1) Luzon, (1) Visayas, (1) Mindanao
Grand Draw	Grand Prize : P 1,000,000 (1) 2nd Prize : P 300,000 (2) 3rd Prize : P 100,000	(1) National (1) National (1) GMA, (1) Luzon, (1) Visayas, (1) Mindanao

See posters for details Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 0207 Series of 2002



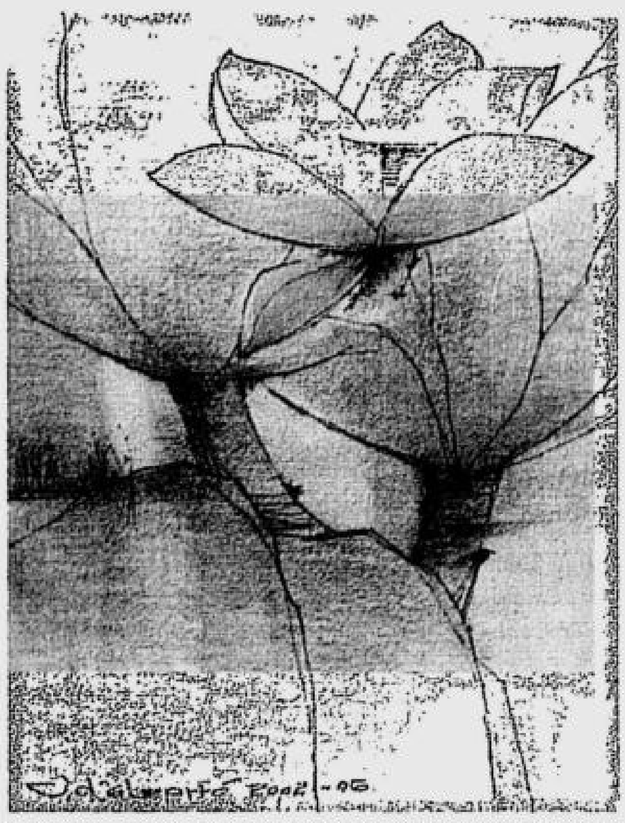
"LOTUS 2002-09"



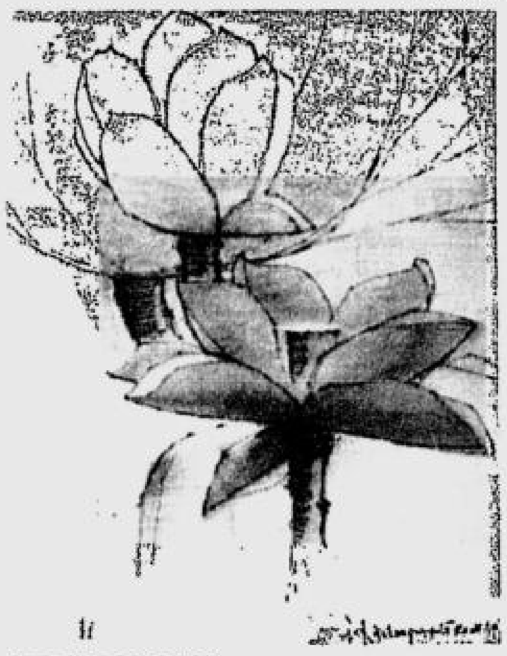
"LOTUS 2002-12"

New art of the lotus

JAMES Onglepho, the proponent of the Chinese stylistic tradition in Philippine painting, has turned to a new medium—color pencil and ink on rice paper—to create his trademark lotuses. The result is a brilliant interplay of shades and lines in celebratory translucence. Catch the beautiful works at the Asia Art Gallery, 6/L Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Mandaluyong City. Call 632-1433.



"LOTUS 2002-06"



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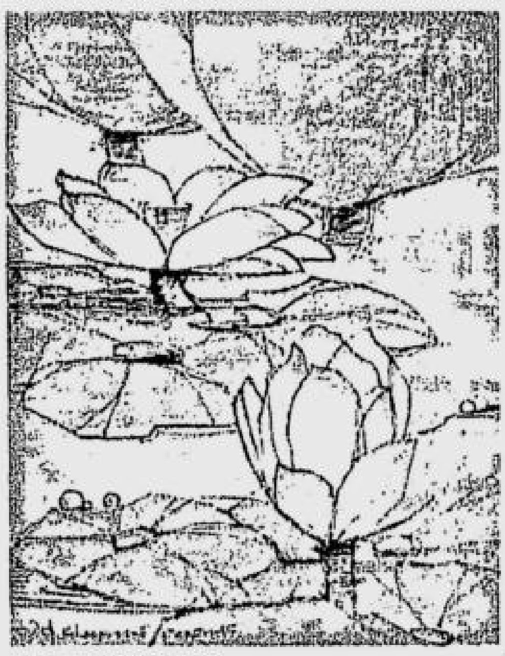

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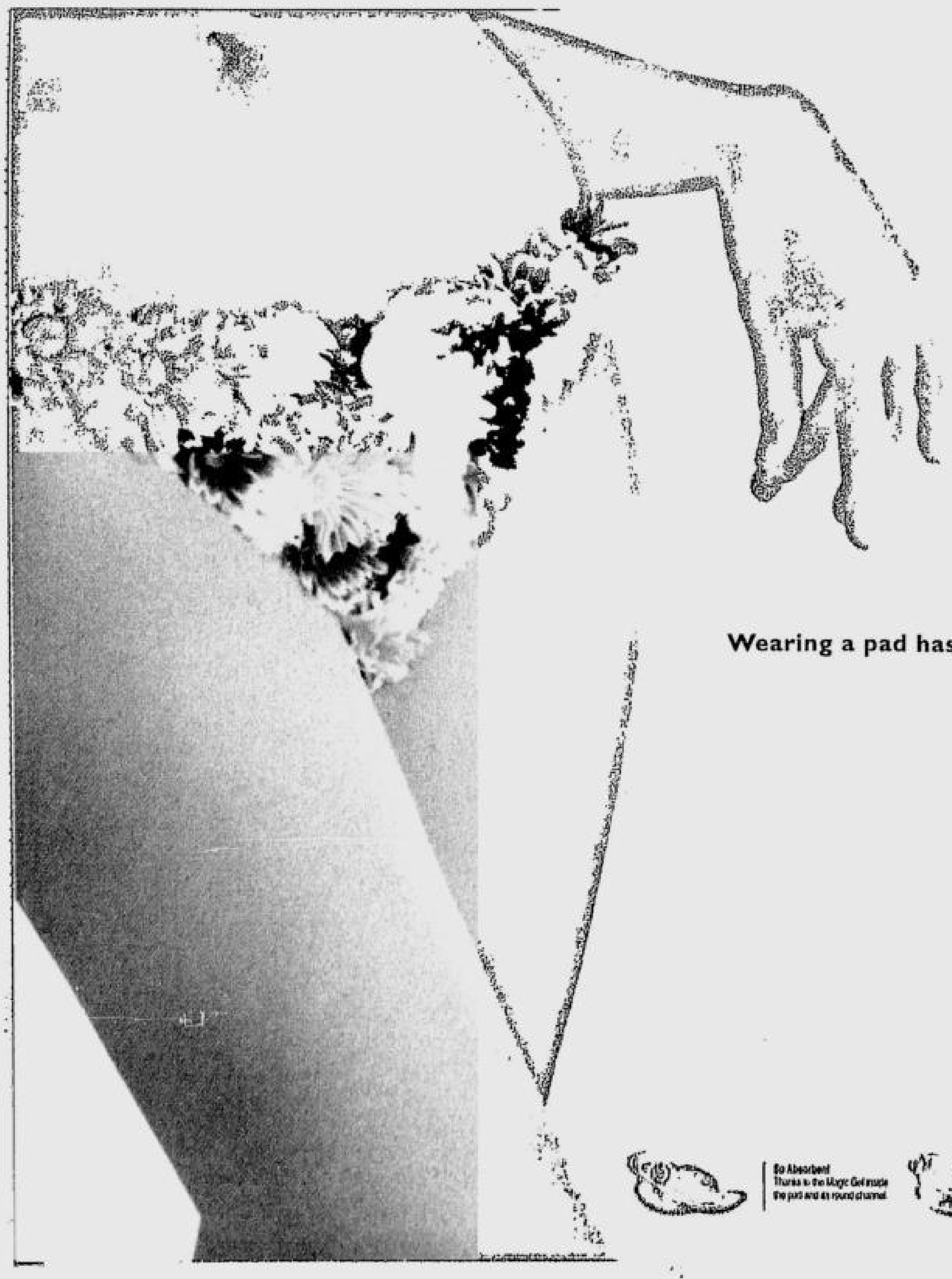

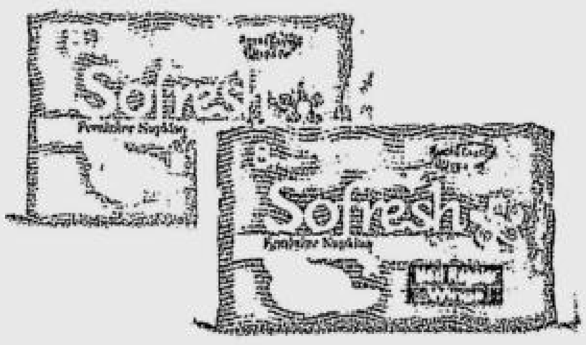

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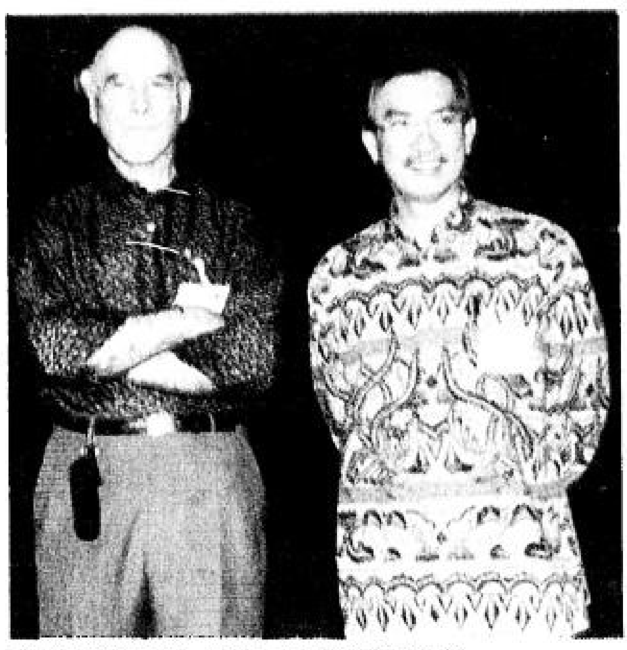
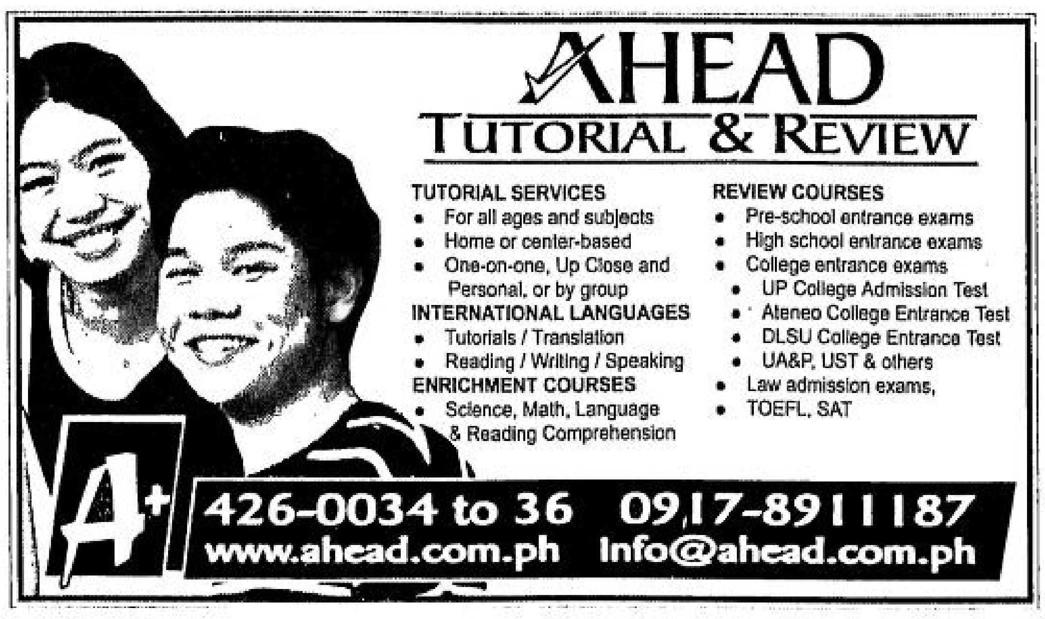


JAIME Zobel de Ayala and Randy David

A total performance leaking through boundaries

Story on page E3



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Is Baby A bringing Andrea Bocelli to Manila?

By: Pablo A. Tariman
Contributor

AS impresario Baby Arenas left Rome during the weekend to attend the canonization of Padre Pio, we got word that she was pulling another opera "coup."

After bringing in Luciano Pavarotti a few years back, the unofficial word is that she might mount an Andrea Bocelli concert in Manila September this year.

Veteran opera watchers are slow to react to this development, and for good reason. Bocelli didn't have the solid training of the Three Tenors—Placido Domingo, José Carreras and Pavarotti—and they are not about to name him (Bocelli) the Fourth Tenor just like that. They would lean more toward José Cura and Roberto Alagna, and Bocelli is nowhere near their vocal vicinity.

But as they say, we cannot argue with Bocelli's recording success.

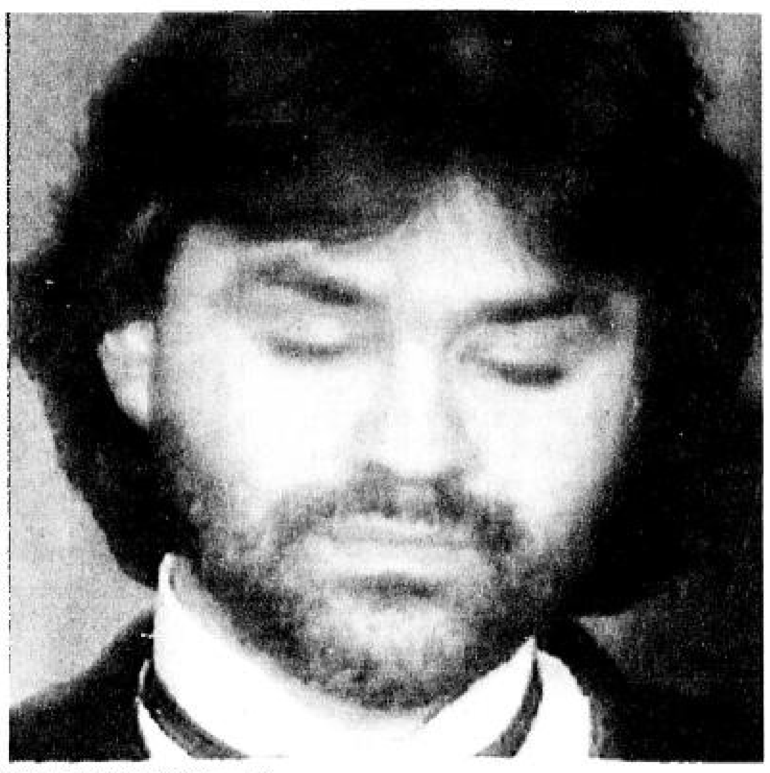
With his best-selling discs declared as double, quadruple and multiplatinum not just in America but in Europe as well, there is no way even veteran opera watchers can ignore Bocelli. He debuted as Rodolfo in a full-length "La Boheme," and is now about to tackle the role of Lt. Pinkerton in "Madame Butterfly."

Media creation

But seasoned opera watchers contend Bocelli is a product of crass media hype.

Opera News, in its review of new recordings a few years back when publicists were promoting Bocelli's "Romanza and Sogno," said: "Such flashy promotion is cause for alarm among classical music traditionalists, and with good reason: the tools of hype are often used to foist undeserving artists on the public. One recent example, depending on your viewpoint, might be Andrea Bocelli, the blind Tuscan of modest vocal gifts, whose good charm and vulnerability communicated so well on PBS that he is now playing Madison Square Garden."

His first teacher taught in Manila and appeared in some opera productions with his pupil, the mother of Baby Arenas


"THE FOURTH Tenor"

Out of the blue, Bocelli has become the first tenor—although with even less opera experience than, say, Mario Lanza—to have a widely publicized career. The critics are not impressed, however, even if the singer is enjoying SRO crowds wherever he performs.

In one concert at the Kennedy Center, the critics said Bocelli projected little comprehension of character even if he was singing in his native language. But they admitted this didn't seem to matter to the audience, who appeared to be thrilled by his boyishly slight pianissimos around which his interpretations were organized. Critics also concede that Bocelli has, by now, acquired a very solid following worldwide.

Those who bought Bocelli's records in the last four years and seen him do a duet with Celine Dion in the Oscar awards, greeted with exhilaration the news of his singing in Manila, as they see him as King of Classical Crossovers.

Filipino fans swore by his "Con Te Partiro" and its translation, "Time to Say Goodbye," sung with Sarah Brightman. Optimists say Bocelli and Brightman gave Mozart and Verdi a New Age treatment, but seasoned voice connoisseurs are wondering: Why are Bocelli's Latin ballads sung like death scenes from "Tosca"?

Perhaps Bocelli became too famous before he could acquire enough vocal education, but now that he has acquired celebrity status nobody argues with success.

Manila connection

His first teacher, Arrigo Pola, taught in Manila in the mid-'50s and appeared in some opera productions with his favorite pupil, Remedios Bosch Jimenez, who happens to be the mother of Baby Arenas. Is it because of Bocelli's past that Filipinos could relate to him the way we could relate to Pavarotti?

The first link is that Bocelli's first voice teacher of consequence is none other than the legendary tenor Franco Corelli, who sang in Manila in the '70s with Maria Callas' arch rival, Renata Tebaldi.

While Pavarotti trained to be a singer from the very beginning, Bocelli studied to be a lawyer and actually received a degree in doctor of law at the University of Pisa. He worked for a year as a court-appointed lawyer.

Bocelli had to sing in piano bars and nightclubs to pay for his voice lessons with Corelli. He, in fact, met his future wife, Enrica, in one of those places. They now have two sons, Amos and Matteo.

Pavarotti got wind of the blind tenor when he was asked to record a duet, "Miserere," with Italian rock star Zucchero. Bocelli auditioned for the part, and when Pavarotti heard the tape, he asked, "Zucchero, who is this guy? You do not need me to sing it. Let Andrea sing 'Miserere' with you, for there is no one finer."

Bocelli was formally introduced to Pavarotti and they became friends. The young tenor was given a part in Pavarotti's annual charity concert and became known in the opera circle. He did one recording after another after Rome executives heard him sing "Miserere" and "Nessun Dorma" in the birthday party of Zucchero.

The rest is now recording history.

After his best-selling recordings, the next Bocelli item that will most likely sell like hotcakes is his autobiography, "The Music of Silence: a Memoir," which he wrote on a Braille computer without a ghostwriter.

Substantial roles

The question remains: is Bocelli the Fourth Tenor after Domingo, Carreras and Pavarotti?

Manila has heard superstar tenors in the past, from Ferrucio Tagliavinni to Franco Corelli and Placido Domingo, from the '50s to the '70s. Pavarotti and Carreras came in the '90s.

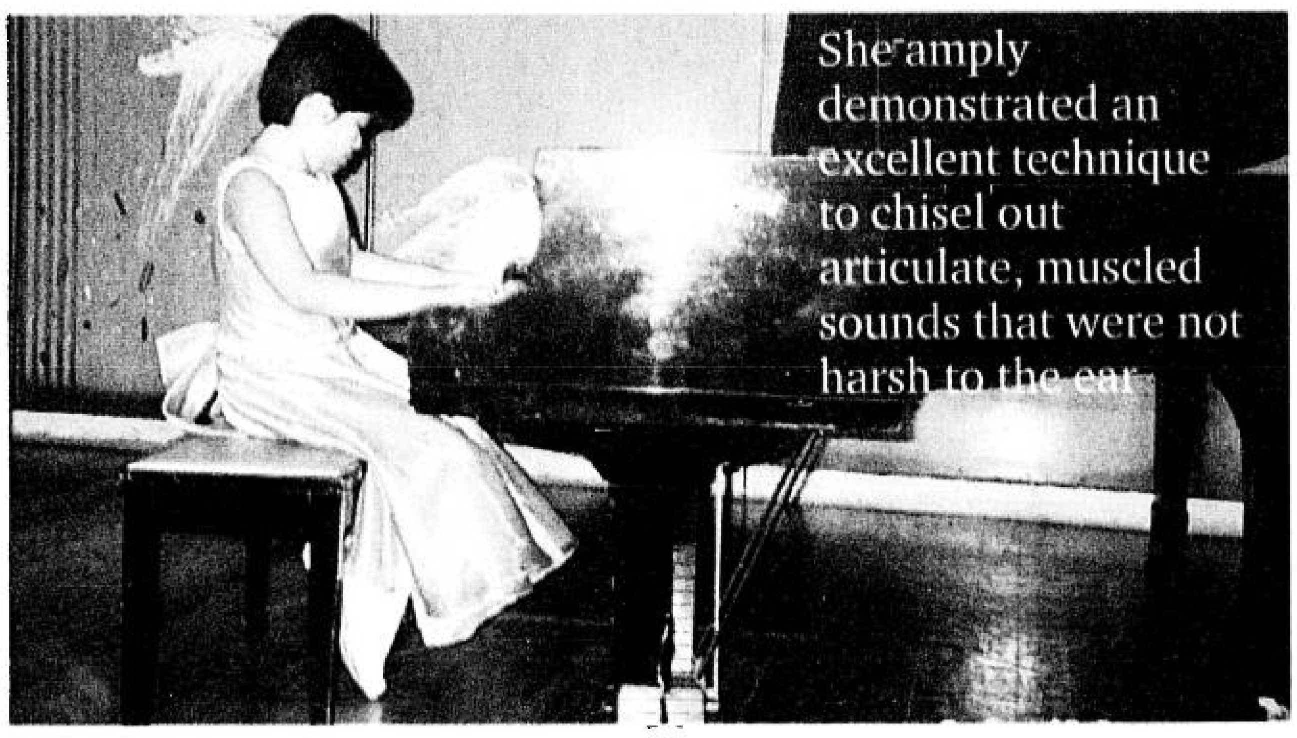
Minus the media hype, I guess it is but proper that we accept Bocelli for what he is and will be, without ranking him with the world's greatest.

For even critics concede that Bocelli and his kind have substantial roles in the area of classical music appreciation.

Says David Mermelstein, director of programming of classical radio: "If he [Bocelli] brings people to the appreciation of more sophisticated music, I welcome the opportunities it invites. If listening to him makes some people want to hear a full version of 'La Boheme,' that's excellent."

On that note, I am curious to hear Bocelli live in Manila, and hope fans of Martin Nievera and Gary Valenciano would finally crossover and find delight in discovering opera and art songs.

YOUNG conductor Randy Colmenar is excited about the June 17 date with Cecile Licad, when the world-renowned pianist plays Rachmaninoff Piano Concerto No. 3 with the San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra at the Cultural Center of the Philippines. The night opens with Shostakovich's 5th Symphony. Call 687-3592 to 93, 891-5610 or (0919) 252-2770.


She amply demonstrated an excellent technique to chisel out articulate, muscled sounds that were not harsh to the ear

Young pianist makes impressive debut

By Antonio C. Hila
Contributor

LISTENING to a recital by a young talented pianist is certainly pure aural delight.

Talk about spontaneity and unaffected, sincere playing, and you would, for sure, get it from a prodigious young pianist. This is particularly true in the case of 9-year-old Ma. Regina "Inna" Pangalangan Montesclaros, who impressed her listeners during her premier recital at the Antonio Molina Hall, Tower 2, Equitable PCI Bank, recently.

Inna played pieces of different and even contrasting styles from different periods in musical history, from Bach to Kasilag, with convincing stylistic nuance. She amply demonstrated an excellent technique to chisel out articulate, muscled sounds that were not harsh to the ear as they were made to sing.

The notes came in even succession, and the musical lines were vividly etched. She punctuated her lines well and with sensitivity.

Her tone production was unmistakably associated with the Picazo technique of her teacher, Prof. Cecile Basilio-Roxas, being herself a product of such method. The sound had a solid body, and its beauty lay in its ringing brilliance attained not by banging the piano but by simply putting muscle into it.

The exponent of this technique need not perform grand body movements to produce a big, lush sound. It becomes utterly ironic for a pianist to have to work so hard to strike powerful sounds and yet the sounds, when produced, are not commensurate to the effort exerted.

Mesmerizing

In contrast, Inna simply adopted a relaxed stance while playing. And as she moved her fingers up and down the scale, one was mesmerized by the successions of tones: tender, relaxed and buoyant.

In the two-part renditions of Bach, she showed a well-balanced tonal production of the left and the right hand as they engaged in dialogic or contrapuntal repartee notable in the No. 8 in F and the No. 14 in B Flat.

In the Mozart piece that followed, the popular Sonata KV 545 in C, she demonstrated her ability to sing her lines. Here and in the final number, Haydn's Piano Concerto in C, with her teacher on the second piano, Inna showed her capability to play works of multimovements and, more importantly, collaborate and fuse her talent with another with astounding results.

INNA Montesclaros

The Mozart sonata was significant as it usually was the gateway, or the introduction to the understanding of the composer's style. In both Haydn and Mozart pieces, Inna played with infectious charm difficult, long-arched passages with propulsive rhythmic drive, brushed with sensitivity and vivid dynamics.

In Schumann's "Album for the Young," where she played a bouquet of lovely numbers, she revealed a juvenile sense of romance, so fresh and unaffected, notably in "Melody" and "A Song to Hum." In the Bartok and the Kasilag pieces, she was simply marvelous chiseling out those percussive tones.

But Kasilag's Scherzino was not all percussive. And Inna capably showed this. She charmed her listeners with the droning effect of the left hand and the tender melody of the right hand in the second movement that sounded like a *berceuse* (a lullaby). She also showed intelligence in the use of the pedal to ensure the continuity of moving passages. And those ethnic colors that called for brassy treatment she played with a bang!

Unmistakably, Inna is a talent to watch and, like many other young talents, has to be properly exposed and encouraged. That is precisely the mission of the MCO Foundation—to discover and promote young talents—which cosponsored the recital. This was emphasized by its president, Armando Baltazar, in his opening remarks.

An incoming third-grader at the Colegio San Agustin, where she is a consistent honor student, Inna is the daughter of Edgardo Montesclaros and Merceditas Pangalangan.

Bayanihan returns to UN for Independence Day show

ALMOST 43 years ago, the Bayanihan Philippine National Dance Company treated an elite audience to a spellbinding performance while on a visit to the United States. They were able to bring an hour of enchantment to an audience of 2,000.

The venue for the memorable performance, where the Bayanihan performed the show-stopping *tinikling* and *singkil* was the general assembly hall of the United Nations in New York. The distinguished audience included members of the diplomatic corps and the UN Secretariat.

The Bayanihan is all set to make a return appearance at the UN when they perform during the Philippine Independence Day celebrations there. Suzie Moya Benitez, Bayanihan executive director, said the Philippine ambassador to the United Nations, Alfonso Yuchengco, who is also chair of the Bayanihan board, invited the troupe to perform at the UN.

Benitez said the company would do another tour of the United States.

Bayanihan toured the US a few days after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in New York and Washington. The company performed in 56 cities in 20 states across the country. It also gave dance workshops during the tour.

For the Independence Day celebrations at the UN, Bayanihan will be performing "The Voyage for Love and Peace," the piece that won them the Gold Temple Award at the Sicily International Festival last February, the first Filipino dance company to win the prestigious award.

The piece incorporates several Muslim dances—*singkil, rinta, pangalayapatong* (bamboo dance), *kuntao* (a martial arts dance), the *kasilimut* (the headdress dance of Maranao maidens)—all performed to the music of Muslim percussion instruments such as the gong and the *kulintang*.

Prior to their performance at the UN, the Bayanihan will perform at the Fashion Institute Hall, also in New York.

The Bayanihan's performances in New York are part of a month-long schedule of activities, which will culminate in the birthday celebration of Bayanihan founder Helen Z. Benitez.

On June 27, the Bayanihan will celebrate Benitez's birthday with the launching of the Bayanihan instructional VCD and Barbie Dolls.

PROCEEDS of the sacerdotal concert will go to the construction of a cathedral.

Antipolo priests rock, roll and pray

WHAT do Fathers Ric Eguia, Loddy Garcia, Eymard Balatbat, Kune Garganta, Sandy Enhaynes and deacon Rev. Roc Berdos have in common? A passion for singing, devotion to Our Blessed Mother and determination to preach the gospel.

These priests have taken time out from their pastoral duties in Antipolo to preach the Good News through song and dance.

They will stage the concert, "Handog sa Dalisay na Puso ni Maria," on June 7-8 at the Assumption College Multipurpose Hall. Joining them will be the Grand Parish Choir of the quasi-parish of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish on Hinulugang Taktak Road. Proceeds will go to the construction of a cathedral.

Antipolo diocese's new pastor, Bishop Crisostomo A. Yalung, leads the fund-raising campaign to build the cathedral to complement the very busy shrine of Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage and to serve the fast-growing population of the city.

Tickets are available at the parish office (tel. 696-4387, c/o Brother Andrew) or at the seven chapel councils of the parish.

A total performance leaking through boundaries

By Sylvia L. Mayuga
Contributor

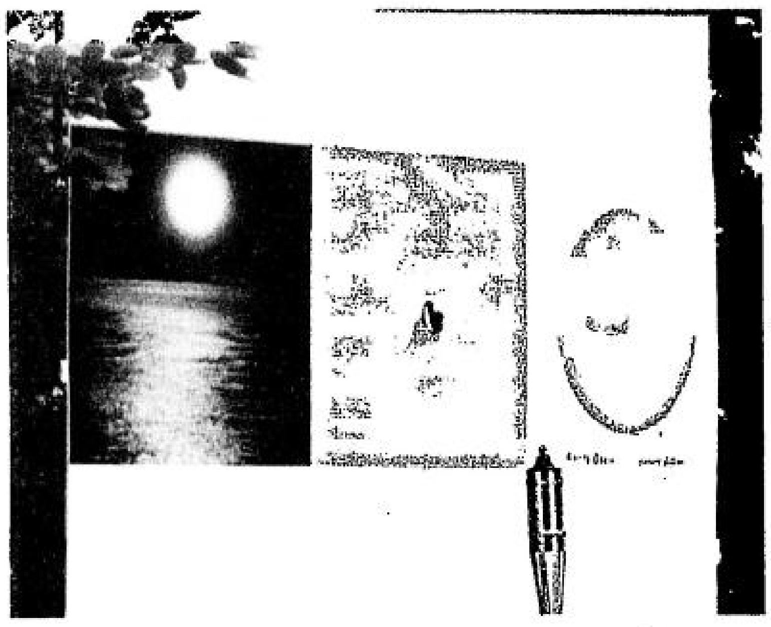
A TENDER sense of homecoming hovered over the Filipinas Heritage Library at the early April evening launching of "Silence," a handsome new book written by Randolf S. David and illustrated by Jaime Zobel. A dream had materialized with a companion CD—flute, bells, chimes, *kulintang*, gamelan and voices awash over sculpted words and images, some near invisible on sheepskin, matte and coated paper in black, white and grays.

> 'Silence' is a unique collaboration between a sociologist and a businessman-aesthete

Not quite book, film, painting or sculpture, lodged somewhere in their gaps, "Silence" is a total performance leaking through boundaries. It was conceived,nourished and produced by Zobel—an intriguing hybrid of aesthete and businessman, Filipino patriot and Castilian grandee, real estate developer and nature devotee naming his inspiration in Zen.

An artist's journey had converged with a political guru's vision. No expense was spared to freeze the explosion exquisitely in time—as much a gift to a nation as countless vigils of faith, hope and love that have nurtured centuries of our history. To Lucio San Pedro's "Sa Ugoy ng Duyan," "Silence" went public in the shadow of Makati's soaring towers of high finance from depths of dialogue with life and art.

THE BOOK gives "to airy nothing a habitation and a name"



Now it invites more vigils over beauty and pain, nature and history, time and immortality in our islands. Mine began in David's introduction: "On a recent trip to Indonesia, while taking photographs of Borobodur at dawn, such a yearning unexpectedly shook (Jaime) with a mysterious urgency, like a shadow suddenly calling attention to itself. It came as a moment of spacious calm…he remembers being both frightened and assured by it…"

Humanity

Zobel in turn recalls in the preface, "It was at that time that I saw a TV talk show where I got to know of Randy David, a professor at the University of the Philippines, where he taught sociology and was also a member of the board of regents. What impressed me about (him) was his analytical approach, clarity of expression and above all, his humanity."

Wondering how they could meet, he was startled when his son Jaime Augusto, now president of Ayala Corporation, announced that he had just invited the self-same David to their Senior Advisory Committee. And so the mountain came to Mohammed in an anteroom of his office in Tower One, PSE Building. Before one of his late Uncle Fernando's vintage black-and-white paintings with a subtle hint of gold, Zobel broached their collaboration on the theme of silence—"his mute companion all these years" that he had "only recently felt the need to know better."

David protested, "I am a sociologist, not a philosopher. My work has been mainly on social structures rather than on the labyrinth of the inner life…The phenomenon would be too idiosyncratic to lend itself to systematic sociological or cultural analysis."

"Why don't we find out then?" Zobel challenged, feeling at least assured that his project was not entirely bizarre.

In the firm grip of mystery, next the artist was describing his dream to his new son-in-law Alonso on a yacht en route to diving waters. "May I bring this to the attention of my father?" asked the son of Cristobal Halffter. Instantly, Zobel was in dialogue with the Spanish composer and orchestra director over dinner on the "quaint alchemy between photography and sociology, art and biography." The effect was electric. Cristobal wrote feverishly that evening, reading an elegant essay in Spanish to Jaime hours later.

Space

A musician's meditation on silence, translated into English, became a perfect foreword: "Silence, for me, is the space between two sounds…The real task, the most difficult and perhaps the most important one in musical creation, is to order sounds that succeed each other in time in order to reveal the real value of silence."

David would engage 19 life stories in "unstructured, freewheeling, unhurried, and open-ended interviews"—revealing, evading, speaking at the edges of silence—and a garland of humanity took shape the way things began in a Buddhist temple. "We had no theories to prove, no conclusions to document," notes a sociologist in a tinkle of liberation.

He chose a soldier, an info-tech wiz, a young Muslim evacuee, an old woman awaiting death, a Benedictine abbot, a musician going deaf, a reflective widow, a peasant who learned law, a gentle mathematician, a life prisoner, a playwright, a folk singer, a long-distance runner, our controversial intelligence chief, two filmmakers, and Zobel's own 13-year old daughter Mariana. Zobel chose a Mangyan elder who is his neighbor in Mindoro, and the poet Miguel, youngest son of Jaime Ongpin, for whom he had kept an eye out since the traumatic late '80s.

Regularly, David brought back strands of the garland to help plan illustrations that, at first, Zobel intended to be "Zen-like symbols to distinguish one subject from the other." His "original approach was detachment" but life would not have it. Again, "something happened"—biographies came alive, resonating in the heart; "symbols took on new meanings."

One subject received a scholarship, another a medical consultation in the awe, unease, surprise, compassion, gratitude, affection of soul encounters. Bent to his elusive theme, Zobel keened to the pulse of humanity. David's pronounced cognitive bent curled into unaccustomed spirals and arabesques.

Other designs

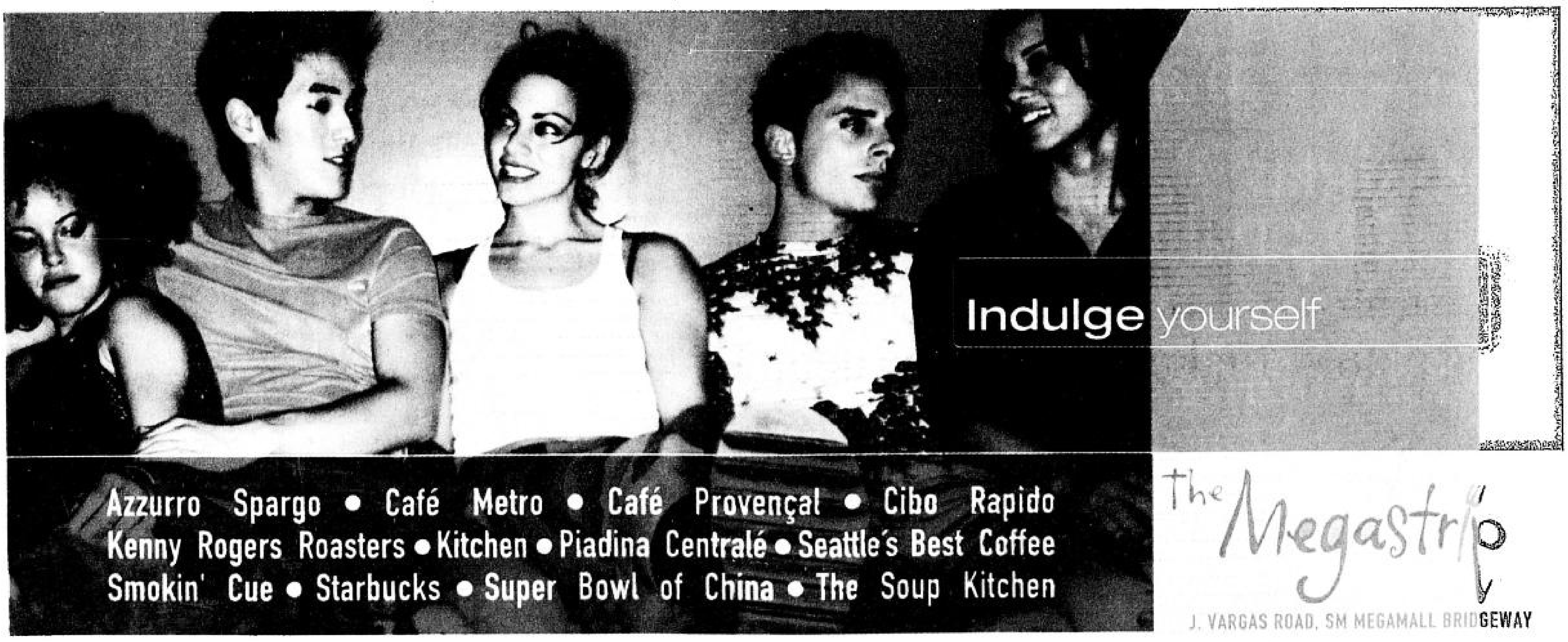
Capturing the essence of life stories in portraits, photographs and graphics for integration by designer Francisco Doplon, loomed as the next mountain pass, but life had its own designs. With the outcome of the Estrada impeachment trial, Edsa II-in-the making became a powerful rival for a political guru's time. David nearly dropped the project then. But a seasoned captain of the good ship Ayala said, "Take your time. I will not do it with anyone else." Having resumed and finished, however, David could not stop rewriting—until Zobel said, "You should never be the editor of your work," calling novelist Butch Dalisay who polished well-considered thinker's prose to luminosity. Luminous, too, was Zobel's realization: music "mimicking the sounds of nature" that had relieved him in "hours of tedious work" helped to "subliminally discern compositions of great beauty"—and a CD was born.

ZOBEL: Intriguing hybrid

DAVID: Impressive humanity

But an inexorable process of nameless design would not end without another coincidence: the passing of both artist's and writer's mothers as a masterpiece was born. Such is life, such is art that two years since seeding, Randy David would quote his daughter: "You will never again make a book as beautiful as this one." In turn, borrowing from Shakespeare, Jaime Zobel de Ayala—Merlin, born a century after the founding of his ancestral corporation, postmodern twinkle in his eye at 67—thanked all who helped him "give to airy nothing a habitation and a name."

If only, oh if only, everyone could move in, too.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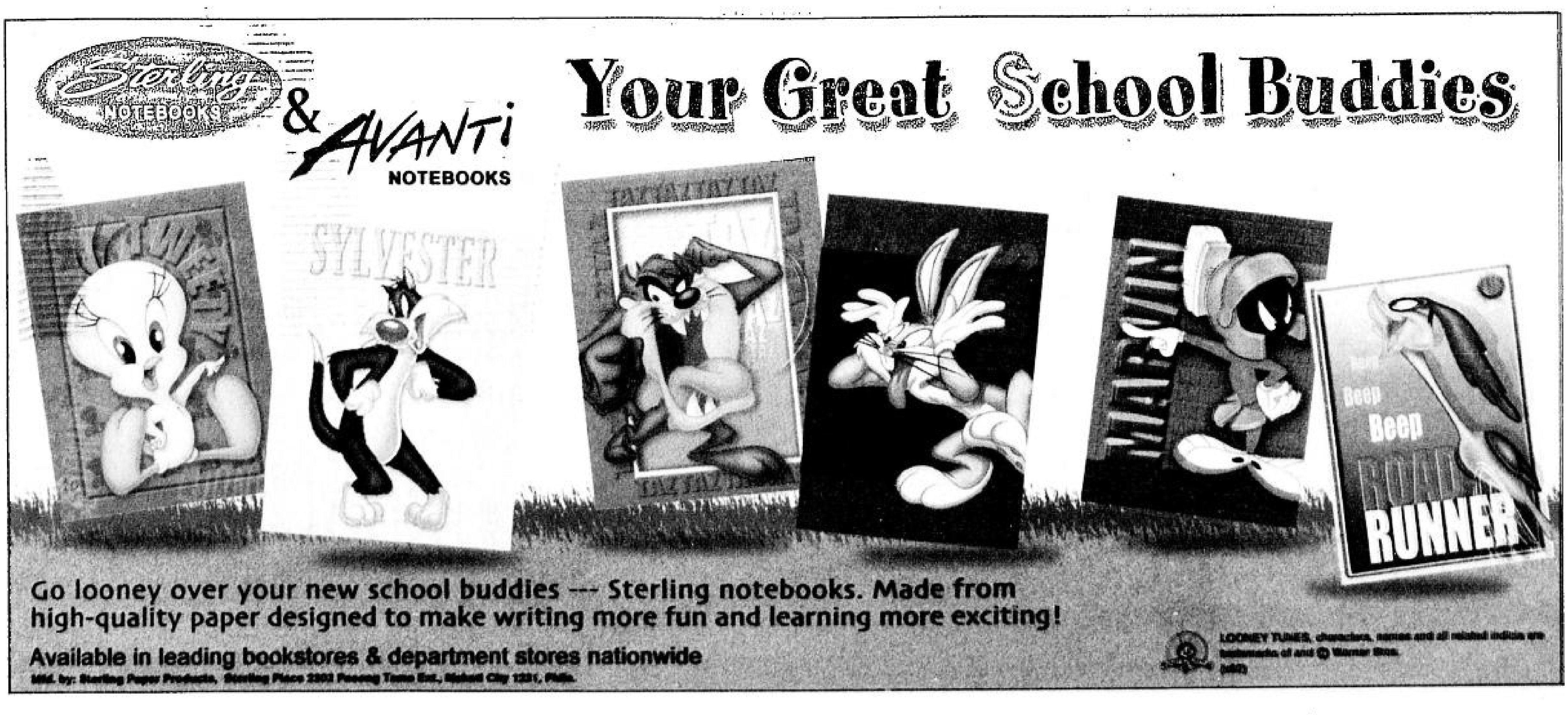

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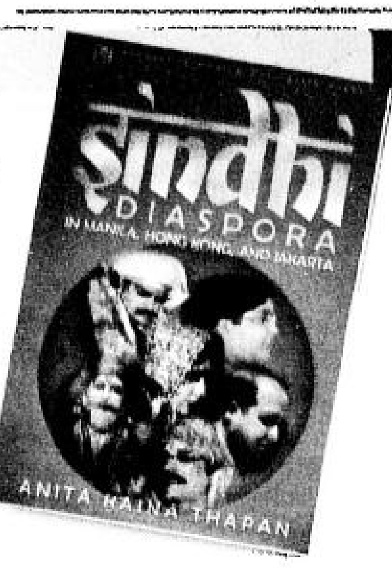


"SINDHI Diaspora" seeks to understand the Sindhi way of life as it has evolved over the last 50 years in the context of three distinct cultures—Filipino, Chinese and Indonesian. The author, Dr. Anita Raina Thapan, a visiting research fellow of the UP Center of Integrative and Development Studies, conducted extensive interviews here and abroad to produce an engaging discussion of Sindhi society, which interestingly does not have any specific region in India it can call home. Published by Ateneo de Manila University Press (426-5984/6001 local 4612/3/6; fax, 426-5909; e-mail unipress@admu.edu.ph), the book is available at Solidaridad Bookstore.

Doronila is author of the month

SINCE the February release of Amando Doronila's two books, "The Fall of Joseph Estrada" and "Between Fires," sales of these two titles have been phenomenal. This June, Doronila is honored by National Bookstore as Author of the Month.

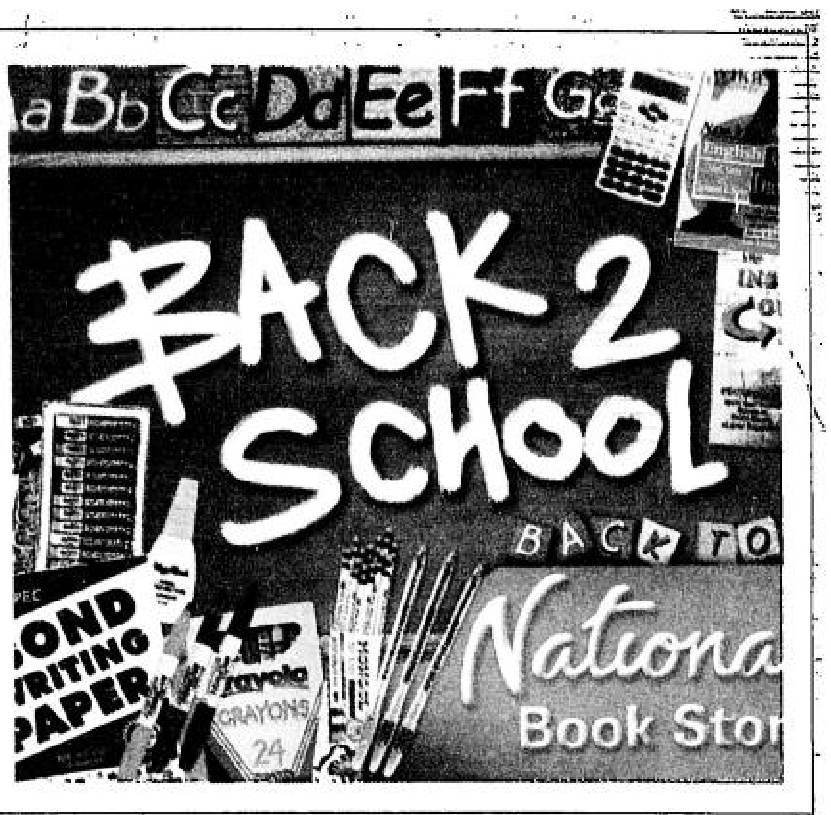
An award-winning journalist and respected political analyst, Doronila writes the widely read Analysis column in the INQUIRER. As a reporter, he has covered a number of historically significant events, such as the Indonesian coup in the mid-'60s and the American bombing of North Vietnam in 1967. Author of a number of scholarly papers and books, Doronila's previous book on the Philippines was published by the Oxford University Press.

Doronila has a master's degree from Monash University, Australia. In 1998, he was conferred the rank of knighthood by the French government. He is presently the political consultant of the INQUIRER.

"The Fall of Joseph Estrada" recounts the last 100 days in office of Joseph Estrada through an insider's view with the most accurate and explosive sources, and revelations from key players. "Between Fires" features 15 different perspectives, which add depth and context to the events that led to the fall of President Estrada.

"The Fall of Joseph Estrada" and "Between Fires" are available at all National Bookstore and PowerBooks branches.

NATIONAL Bookstore makes shopping for school needs more convenient with its 2002 back-to-school catalog. It has over 100 pages showcasing a wide selection of items such as books, notebooks, paper, bags, pens and other school supplies, students and parents can shop from the convenience of their homes by selecting the items they want, and calling the branch nearest them to place their orders. They can pick up the items from the branch as soon as their order is completed. The catalog's new Best Buy section gives shoppers more choices so they can get the best deals possible. Laking National cardholders get an added Best Buy treat. Any Best Buy product a cardholder buys from the catalog, earns him double points. Visit the National Book Store branch nearest you.



National Bookstore offers scholarships

NATIONAL Bookstore gives shoppers the chance to win 50 cash scholarships, worth P50,000 each, with its latest back-to-school promo, "Tuition Free at National Book Store." Starting May 15 until June 30, every P500 purchase that includes any participating products marked with a special "N" sticker, entitles customers to one raffle coupon. Featured products include MSA review books; Artline, Bensia, Bic, Dong-A, Inoxcrom, Leone, Panda, Pentel, Pilot, Rotring, Uni and Zebra pens; Advance, Aspen, Best Buy, Campus Mate, Cattleya, Corona, Jardin Notes King Jim, Merit, Seagull, Sterling, Stradmore, Unic, Veco and Yasaka notebooks; 3M, Crocodile, Hi-Tec and Pritt tapes; Elmer's, Mr. MaGloo and Stick-ee glues; Camel, Faber-Castell and Li'l Hands art supplies; Aurora & Sharp calculators; Marc, Orange, Paper One, Transworld, Tricon, Valiant and Vernal paper products; Maxell diskettes and CDs and Sysmax desk accessories.

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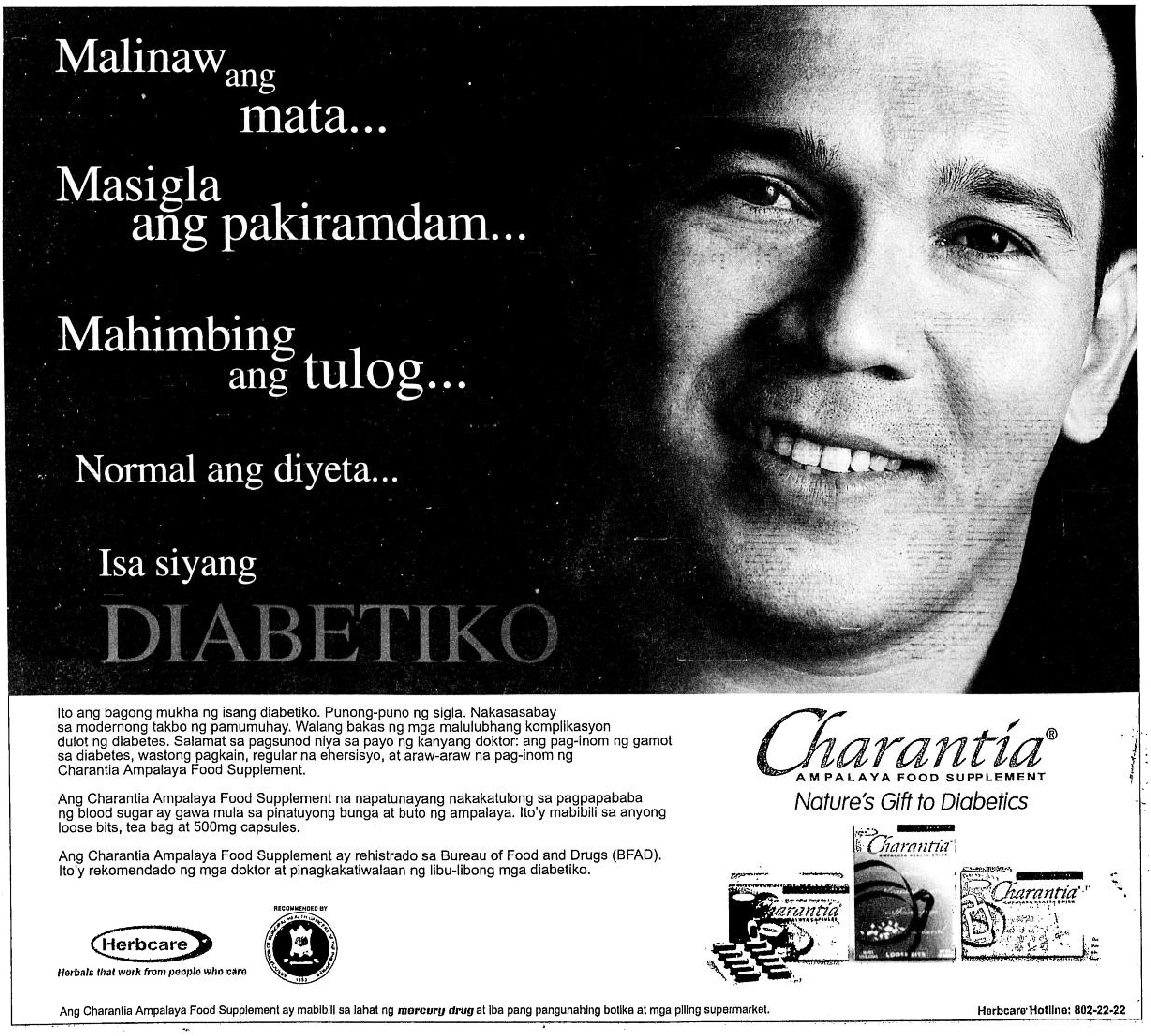

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